

The Energy Price Cap Rise

At the end of August, OFGEM (Office of Gas and Electricity Markets) announced that the energy price cap will rise by 4% from the 1st October.

Every 3 months, OFGEM reviews the energy price cap and can limit the maximum rates and standing charges that energy suppliers can charge.

The current price cap for a typical household paying by direct debit for gas and electricity is £1663. Based on the energy use of a typical household, from October, the price cap will rise by £60 per year.

The increase reflects the higher wholesale gas prices in the present volatile global market.

The government's decision to remove the VAT from all domestic energy bills is reflected in the price update.



Savings could be available by choosing a fixed tariff

Should you commit to a short- or long-term fix before the new price rises come in?



Have you ever been faced with a short- or long-term fix and what should you do?



Are you a high energy user or a low energy user?



And how does that affect the tariff you choose?

Plug in Solar Panels

From 27th August, plug in solar panels became completely legal within the UK. This means that you can now purchase solar panels and plug them in to start using your own solar energy.

There isn't any upfront cost and no installation team needed. But there will be things to think about before investing in them.

How plug in solar works for the home, in brief.

Plug in panels will come with a micro converter which converts the sunlight into electricity to power the appliances that are using electricity at that time.

Things to think about.

Are they right for your home?

Do you get enough sunlight or have the space to install them?

They do not come with a storage battery, so you will consume any energy as it's being created. Anything that is spare, will go back to the grid. You may be able to apply for an export tariff with your energy supplier and get credit for any spare energy produced.

UK regulations do not allow for plug in batteries at this time.

There are a few non-negotiable things to consider before purchasing plug in solar panels.

- 1.** You need to notify your distribution network operator because they need to manage the network in a safe and balanced manner.
- 2.** Check your set up. Make sure your outdoor socket set up is watertight and in good working order. If not, it will need to be put right by a qualified electrician.
- 3.** The panels will need to be installed safely, so look at where it is going to be mounted to make sure it's in a strong safe place.
- 4.** You can use them in rental properties, but you will need to get permission from your landlord first. Because they are portable, if you move, you can take them with you.
- 5.** There is a legal limit to how many plug-in panels you can use on your property.

Plug in solar panels can save you between £70 and £100 per year on your electricity bills and cost approximately £450 to install.

Scam Alert



There are solar scams around. The scammers may knock on your door if they can see that you have recently had your solar panels fitted. They try to claim the inverter is outdated, broken, warranty expired or is unsafe etc.



Do not take advice from random callers or people knocking at your door. If you are worried about an issue with the panels, contact your installer.



Relative Humidity in the home.

Safe and Comfortable Range

For most homes, the **ideal indoor relative humidity** is **30% to 50% RH**, with a maximum of **60%** to prevent mold and structural damage. In winter, it is recommended to maintain **30–40% RH** to avoid condensation on cold surfaces. Monitoring with a **hygrometer** or smart thermostat can help maintain these levels and prevent both health and property risks

High Humidity.

Indoor humidity above **60% RH** can create conditions where **mold, mildew, dust mites, and bacteria thrive**, leading to respiratory problems, allergic reactions, and asthma attacks. High humidity also impairs the body's ability to cool itself, increasing the risk of **heat exhaustion and heatstroke**, particularly in individuals with cardiovascular or respiratory conditions.



Low humidity

Indoor humidity below **25% RH** can lead to **dry skin, chapped lips, irritated eyes, sore throats, and nosebleeds**. Low humidity also increases susceptibility to **respiratory infections** and can worsen conditions like eczema and psoriasis.

Key Indicators of Dangerous Humidity

- **High humidity:** Musty odours, visible mold, condensation on windows or walls, warped wood, or peeling paint.
- **Low humidity:** Dry, itchy skin, frequent nosebleeds, static shocks, cracked wood surfaces, or respiratory irritation.

Maintaining indoor humidity within the recommended range ensures comfort, health, and protection of your home.

What you can do about high humidity.



Improve the ventilation and airflow in the home.

Remove the sources of moisture such as damp washing, put lids on pans when cooking and use bathroom fans during and after a shower.

All of these puts extra moisture into the air.

If you are in a rental property and have concerns about high humidity in your home, speak to your landlord about it, especially if you have any illnesses that could be aggravated by it.

Why refer someone you know for a Home Energy Advice visit from us?

Our Home Energy Advisors can help you to:

- Improve heating efficiency which may help to reduce the cost of your bills and keep your home warm
- Understand your energy bills, charges and tariffs
- Check that you are receiving the services and financial assistance to which you are entitled
- Fit free energy efficiency measures such as LED light bulbs, radiator reflectors and draught excluders
- Access grant funding for home improvements
- Replace inefficient/broken energy appliances within the home
- Speak with your energy supplier to iron out any issues
- Check for damp and humidity levels
- Refer on to other supporting community organisations
- Check your insulation levels



Depending on your priority level, our advisor can come out to see you between 1 and 3 weeks.

Cost of Living Event

12 noon until 4pm we will be at the Cost of Living Support event in the Sovereign Centre, Weston Super Mare Saturday 26th September.



We have a new Facebook and Instagram account!

If you've been following us on Facebook already, switch over to our new account and check out our new Instagram!

[Facebook](#)

Home Energy Advice Service

What is it? A totally free service providing a visit from a trained home energy advisor to help identify areas where savings can be made on energy use in your home. Resolving issues with reading and paying your bills Installing LED bulbs, draught excluders, and radiator reflectors Access to grants for insulation, new boilers and appliances. Future proofing your monthly payments for energy

Who can get it? Residents in Somerset, North Somerset and parts of Mendip. - Owner occupiers, private and social renters. *

Who does it? Our qualified Home Energy Advisors Maria and Erika

Why is it different? Because it's all about you and how you use your energy in your home. It's totally independent, impartial and costs absolutely nothing.

Why is it free? Because we are the local deliverers of LEAP's (Local Energy Advice Partnership) national program, and supported funding from the Somerset Community Foundation

*Residents who have a household income below £31k or someone in the household is in receipt of a benefit, including pension credit and means tested council tax reductions.

MR R FROM STREET was amazed with the quick and unbelievable service we offer. 'I'm astounded with the service having only found out about the service yesterday!'



MRS D FROM WELLINGTON said 'Maria explained very well our Octopus bill, fixed the tariffs, and gave excellent energy saving advice. An extremely useful 1 ½ hours of Maria's time. She was excellent at explaining lots of things we were unsure about and gave us some excellent energy saving tips and ideas. Many thanks!'

Register for an appointment via our website

https://www.burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk/home-energy_advice

**REQUEST FREE HOME
ENERGY SAVING VISIT**

Phone: 01278 558370



Email: advice@burnhamandwestonenergy.co.uk

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