

Energy Bills

There are a number of things you can do to effectively manage your energy bills and save money.

Turn off any electrical chargers once your appliance is fully charged, such as a laptop or mobile phone

Turning your thermostat down by 1°C could save 10% on your heating bill but remember to keep warm

Don't leave electrical items, like the TV and DVD player, on standby – switch them off at the sockets

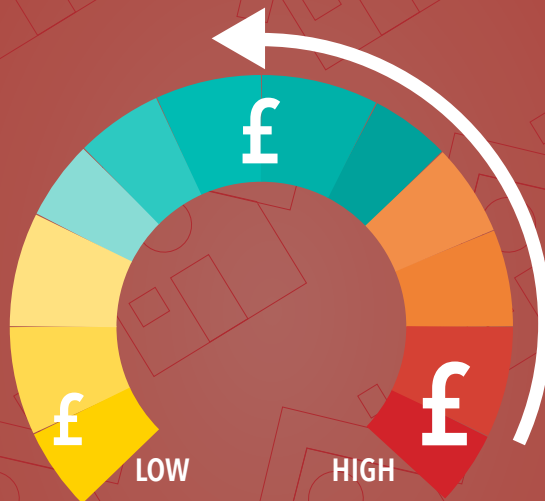
Consider installing cavity wall and loft insulation and fitting draught-proofing to seal unwanted gaps around windows and doors

Turn off lights when you're not in the room

Only boil as much water in a kettle as you need

Replace your old lighting with more energy efficient options eg. LEDs

Have your boiler serviced annually



For more information and advice contact Bryson Energy Advice Line on 0800 142 2865 or www.brysonenergy.org

Ways to manage your energy bills

Here are some more ways to manage your energy bills and save money:

- **'Be Warm' Oil Stamp Scheme:** Belfast City Council's oil stamp saving scheme helps householders save for home heating oil. £5 stamps are available from a range of local outlets and are collected on a savings card. The stamps are accepted by a large number of oil distributors as full or part payment for a delivery of oil.
Tel: 028 9027 0428 www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bewarm
- **Oil Clubs:** Oil Buying Clubs help people to reduce the cost of a fill of oil by purchasing oil in bulk as part of a group. Belfast City Council together with the Public Health Agency has produced a booklet to support groups that want to establish an oil club in their area. Bryson Energy also facilitates a network of oil buying clubs across Northern Ireland.
www.belfastcity.gov.uk / www.brysongroup.org
- **Pre-payment:** A prepayment meter allows you to pay for gas and electricity as you use it. It can be a good way to budget and keep track of how much energy you are using. Some suppliers offer discounts for prepayment customers. If you want a prepayment meter, you should contact your supplier for more information.
Gas: If you are already a natural gas customer and would like a prepayment meter you should contact your supplier for further information.
- SSE Airtricity: Tel: 0345 601 9093 www.airtricitygasni.com
- firmus energy: Tel: 0800 032 4567 www.firmusenergy.co.uk
Electricity: Prepayment keypad meters help you budget for electricity. Contact your electricity supplier for more information.
- **Compare and Switch:** You could save money by comparing and switching your electricity or gas supplier. You can save by switching: supplier, tariff, payment method, how you receive your bills or a combination of all these.
Tel: 028 9025 1600
<http://www.consumerCouncil.org.uk/energy>
- **Winter Fuel Payment:** A tax free amount of between £100 and £300 for anyone born on or before 5 May 1953 (for Winter 2016/2017) to help pay for heating bills. You usually get a Winter Fuel Payment automatically if you receive the State Pension or certain benefits.
Tel: 03459 15 15 15
www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/
- **Benefit entitlement checks:** Please see Advice Centres