

Energy Bills

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

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

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

Have your boiler serviced annually

Only boil as much water in a kettle as you need

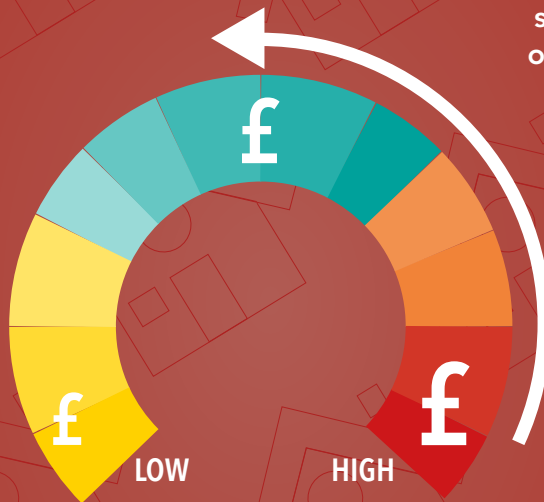
Don't leave electrical items, like the TV and DVD player, on standby – switch them off at the sockets

Turn off lights when you're not in the room

Install cavity wall and loft insulation

Replace your old lighting with more energy efficient options

Fit draught-proofing to seal unwanted gaps around windows and doors



**Making life better,
together**
Belfast Strategic Partnership

Focusing on Life Inequalities

Ways to manage your energy bills

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

- **Switching:** You could save money by switching suppliers and also improve the service you receive. You can save by switching: supplier, tariff, payment method, how you receive your bills or a combination of all these. **Tel: 028 9025 1600. www.consumerCouncil.org.uk**
- **Converting:** Grants are available for people who own their own homes or who are private tenants and who wish to convert their heating system from oil, Economy 7 or solid fuel to natural gas. For more information contact:
Bryson Energy Advice Line **Tel: 0800 142 2865**
National Energy Action **Tel: 028 9023 9909**
To connect to the natural gas network, contact Phoenix Natural Gas:
Tel. 03454 55 55 55. www.phoenixnaturalgas.com
- **Boiler Replacement Scheme:** A grant scheme open to owner occupiers whose household income is less than £40,000 per annum and who have a boiler that is at least 15 years old.
www.nidirect.gov.uk/grant-to-replace-your-boiler
- **Pre-payment:** A pre-payment 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 Pay As You Go customers. If you want a pre-payment meter, you should speak to your supplier for more information.
Gas: If you are already a natural gas customer and would like a pre-payment meter you should speak to your supplier for further information.
- **SSE Airtricity: Tel:0345 900 5253. www.airtricitygasni.com**
- **firmus energy: Tel: 0800 032 4567. www.firmusenergy.co.uk**
- Electricity:** Pay as You Go keypads help you budget electricity and providers can offer discounts on top-ups. Contact your electricity supplier for more details.
- **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
- **'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 9091 8715. www.belfastcity.gov.uk/bewarm