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This energy tariff will save you £££



Rachel Robson

1 February 2010

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Rachel Robson reveals the cheapest energy tariffs on the market - switch and you could save more than £700!

This winter has been particularly bitter, and if you're anything like me, you'll have spent most evenings sitting shivering away at home, worrying about how much your heating bill is going to cost.

In fact, according to research from Which, more than a third of people surveyed said they were worried about paying their energy bill this month - with some people admitting they'd dipped into their own, and their children's, [savings accounts](#) to help pay the bills.

But if you **are** worried about how much you're forking out for your energy bills, there is one thing you can do about it - get [switching](#). And in fact, almost a third of you have recently either switched energy provider or called to check you're on the cheapest tariff.

Remember, switching to a different [energy tariff](#) doesn't have to be difficult - a very easy way to check whether there's a cheaper deal out there for you is to use the lovemoney.com [energy comparison tool](#). You might be surprised at how much you can save.

The history of energy

Taking the time to compare [energy tariffs](#) is really important if you want to ensure you're getting the best deal for you because unfortunately, there's no 'one size fits all' rule.

That's partly due to the fact that historically, there are regional differences in prices, as well as the fact that distribution costs will vary. If, for example, you live in a less populated area, you're likely to have to pay more for the cost of your energy service than if you live in a more populated area.

So this means that in order to ensure you're getting the cheapest tariff for you, you need to shop around. Our [energy comparison tool](#) offers 16,000 tariff variations at any one time - so there really is plenty to choose from.

That said, some energy providers do tend to cater for certain customers' needs more than others - Scottish Power tends to have tariffs for lower users, while e-on tends to be for higher users. However, this is just a rule of thumb - and it won't always be the case for you personally.



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So let's take a look at what the best dual-fuel tariffs might be for a low user, medium user, and a high user - all of whom live in London and are switching from the British Gas standard tariff. All data is taken from our [gas and electricity comparison tool](#).

Low-energy user

Here are the top three cheapest tariffs for a low-energy user (based on a usage of 1,500 kWh electricity/10,000 kWh gas).

Supplier	Tariff	Expected yearly spend	Expected savings
npower	Sign Online v17	£452.24	£181.69
npower	Go Fix	£477.23	£156.70
Scottish Hydro, Southern Electric, Swalec	Go Direct v3	£492.65	£141.28

The cheapest tariff in this instance is from **npower**, with its **Sign Online v17 tariff**. By simply switching to this tariff, a low-energy user could save a pretty impressive £181.69!

The second cheapest tariff is **Go Fix**, also from **npower** - no doubt helped by the fact that you can earn up to a £100 discount for paying by monthly direct debit and managing your account online with npower. Bear in mind that the Go Fix tariff is fixed until 31 December this year - so if you'd prefer to have some reassurance that the price of your gas and electricity won't rise until then, you might prefer to lock into this option.

And in third place is **Scottish Hydro, Southern Electric, Swalec**. Its **Go Direct tariff** could save you just over £140.

Medium-energy user

So if you can save almost £200 as a low-energy user, how much could you save as a medium-energy user?

The chart below shows the three cheapest tariffs for a medium-energy user (based on a usage of 4,000 kWh electricity/24,000 kWh gas).

Supplier	Tariff	Expected yearly spend	Expected savings
npower	Sign Online v17	£1,041.26	£313.37
First Utility	iSave Dual Fuel v2	£1,064.59	£290.04
Ovo Energy	New Energy v2	£1,065.01	£289.62

Interestingly, npower's **Sign Online v17** tariff works out to be the cheapest again for medium users - but this time the savings are even greater - at more than £300. First Utility's **iSave Dual Fuel v2** tariff takes second place, with a saving of £290. And you can also earn a £20 annual credit if you email your meter readings every three months.

High-energy user

Here are the three cheapest tariffs for a high-energy user (based on a usage of 8,000 kWh electricity/50,000 kWh gas).

[3 customer reviews](#)

[MBNA Plat Visa](#) 0% PA for 13 months (2.9% fee) **Typical 16.9% APR** (variable)

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[Egg Visa](#) 0% PA until 1st Apr 2011 (3% fee) **Typical 16.9% APR** (variable)

[6 customer reviews](#)



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Supplier	Tariff	Expected yearly spend	Expected savings
First Utility	iSave Dual Fuel v2	£1,982.39	£723.82
npower	Sign Online v17	£2,014.64	£691.57
Ovo Energy	New Energy v2	£2,053.22	£652.99

Again, there are some familiar names here. npower's **Sign Online v17 tariff** still works out to be one of the cheapest tariffs, although this time it's in second place.

But it's the amount you can save that really stands out. By switching to the **First Utility iSave Dual Fuel v2** tariff, you could save more than £700! Imagine what you could do with that spare cash!

Location location location

Earlier I mentioned that there was no 'one size fits all' when it comes to energy tariffs. However, you could argue that given the npower **Sign Online v17** tariff has appeared in all three examples, it must be a good all-rounder - whether you're a high, medium, or low-energy user. And if you're a medium or high-energy user, **First Utility's iSave Dual Fuel v2** tariff also seems to be a good one to choose.

However, don't forget that regional price differences haven't been taken into account here - all of these tariffs are for London-dwellers. So this means that if you live outside London, you may find these tariffs are **not** the cheapest for you.

To give you an example, let's take a look at a low, medium, and high user living in Merseyside.

Low-energy user

Supplier	Tariff	Expected yearly spend	Expected savings
Scottish Power	Online Energy Saver 8	£463.69	£155.98
npower	Sign Online v17	£467.16	£152.52
Scottish Hydro, Southern Electric, Swalec	Go Direct v3	£485.63	£134.03

This time it's **Scottish Power** that offers the cheapest tariff, with its **Online Energy Saver 8 tariff** - offering a saving of £155.98. However, once again, despite the difference in location, the **nPower Sign Online v17** tariff scores pretty highly - saving you slightly less at £152.52.

Medium-energy user

Supplier	Tariff	Expected yearly spend	Expected savings
Scottish Power	Online Energy Saver 8	£1,064.61	£253.01
First Utility	iSave Dual Fuel v2	£1,066.64	£250.98
e-on	Fix Online v5	£1,076.22	£241.40

In the case of a medium user, the **Scottish Power Online Energy Saver 8** tariff takes the top spot once again, with a potential saving of more than £250.

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But for the first time, there's no sign of npower in the top three - however, **First Utility's iSave Dual Fuel v2** tariff does make an appearance, saving you £250.98.

High-energy user

Supplier	Tariff	Expected yearly spend	Expected savings
First Utility	iSave Dual Fuel v2	£1,975.08	£654.57
e-on	Fix Online v5	£2,034.24	£595.41
EDF Energy	Online Saver v5	£2,076.98	£552.67

If you're a high-energy user in Merseyside, it's the **First Utility iSave Dual Fuel v2** tariff that comes up trumps once again - with an impressive saving of more than £650. And once again, there's no sign of npower.

Shopping around

Having looked at these results, you could of course make some assumptions. After all, both the npower Sign Online v17 tariff and the First Utility iSave Dual Fuel v2 tariff make regular appearances, despite differences in location.

So perhaps it's fair to say that if you're a low user, the npower Sign Online v17 tariff would be a safe bet. And if you're a medium to high user, First Utility's iSave Dual Fuel v2 tariff could be the one to choose.

However, if you do choose to go by these assumptions, this won't necessarily mean you're definitely getting the very best deal. Just because these two tariffs have worked out to be the cheapest in many of the examples shown above, I can't guarantee they will be the cheapest for you. What's more, how much you ultimately save will also depend on which tariff you're switching *from*.

So as with all financial products, make sure you shop around and compare a range of tariffs with the [lovemoney.com energy comparison tool](#) before deciding which one to go for. That way, you'll know for sure you're getting the very best deal.

And don't forget that if you need further help reducing your energy bills, lovemoney.com can help. First, adopt this goal: [Lower your household bills](#). Next, watch this video on [energy tariffs](#). And finally, why not have a wander over to [Q&A](#) and ask other lovemoney.com members for hints and tips about what worked best for them?

More: [Avoid these massive hidden energy charges](#) | [Energy prices start to rise](#)

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Comments

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[pace](#) said

0 recommendations

What I would like to see is not "potential savings" but a comparison of the energy companies price per kWh

That would be far more meaningful!

23 hours ago

[Report](#)



[ron42](#) said

0 recommendations

I agree with PACE but I have to say that, on a recent exercise, I tunnelled down to get the actual charges and put them into a spreadsheet for comparison, the results being that the figures in the comparison tool were spot on. It would still be more satisfying and perhaps more honest to put the true charges up front. I took up B G Click 6 just over a year ago and got a substantial saving on Utility Warehouse, which really suprised me, and the tariff still campares quite favourably with the others. The imprtant thing is to keep checking and comparing the swings.

Perhaps it would be an idea to re-nationalise the lot of 'em and recreate a level playing field but that's now too late after they've taken the profits by asset stripping and then sold everything off to foreigners who can now hike the prices up to make profits for their overseas owners!

23 hours ago

[Report](#)



[pbaxter](#) said

0 recommendations

The problem with PACE's suggestion is that the standing charges vary too (either they are spelt out or in the 'no standing charge' tariffs are included in the first 'so-many' units - for all but the lowest use customers the result is the same) and so a high standing charge can give a lower unit charge. You also need to factor in discounts like direct debit, duel fuel, proving your own readings etc. etc. and of course cashback deals.

Like ron42 I get these figures and put them into a spreadsheet based on my estimated usage and then I can verify the comparison site's conclusions. I too find they are pretty good now (much better than they uesd to be) but you need to be careful about using them when suppliers are changing their tariffs when the conclusions can be misleading because prices are about to change.

23 hours ago

[Report](#)



[johnparr](#) said

0 recommendations

I have just gone to yuor price comparison facility.

It asks how much I spend on fuel.

How can that be used as a basis for comparison? I might be wirth the most expensive or the cheapest already.

Surely the amount of fuel used is the only factor that can be used for an accurate price comparison.

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23 hours ago

[Report](#)



[GreenQueen](#) said

1 recommendation

These comparisons always assume dual fuel usage. We get penalised for living where this is not an option - a village without a gas supply.

22 hours ago

[Report](#)



[BillPaul](#) said

0 recommendations

I with GreenQueen. I have always lived in the country and have never been able to qualify for dual fuel deals. The energy companies were criticised by the Energy Secretary some time ago for discriminating against this market, but that didn't seem to have much effect. There must be thousands of homes throughout the country similar to us. Probably an opportunity for one company to offer something for this market?

21 hours ago

[Report](#)



[LateDeveloper](#) said

1 recommendation

Notice how some energy companies, despite being national, charge a regional price to their customers. This is stupid and should not be allowed, the excuse is that some regions of the country cost more to maintain than others, and yet the infrastructure is the companies fault when it comes to maintenance, not the customers. In other word, because the infrastructure in one part of the country is worse, the customer is penalised.

The truth is probably very different and more than likely has something to do with the per capita household income for that region of the country.

19 hours ago

[Report](#)



[jw2003](#) said

0 recommendations

I'd rather pay more to keep well away from Npower

15 hours ago

[Report](#)



[Reality Returns](#) said

0 recommendations

Hi jw2003, why is that? I have never found their price more than a few pounds pa different from the cheapest option. Their customer service is not bad either, from my limited experience.

13 hours ago

[Report](#)



[Mr Statto](#) said

0 recommendations

JohnParr, if you dig a bit further into the comparison tool you get the option of entering your usage rather than bill value, and you get to select the tariff you're currently on. If it's not one of the main tariffs you can even put in your current unit prices etc as well

12 hours ago

[Report](#)

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petitemisschief said

0 recommendations

As a child we had one coal fire to heat the house, no fridge, one tv, one radio, so instead of looking for the cheapest deal all the time I just switch things off when I think my fuel costs are going up and wear warmer clothes and check my usage regularly

10 hours ago

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