

Keeping warmer for less during Big Energy Saving Week! (31st October – 5th November)



David Tudgey - Bristol Energy Network

As winter draws in and the days get shorter, many of us are starting to turn on the heating. This makes it the perfect time to think about where we are getting our energy from and how much it is costing. One of the quickest and easiest ways for you to keep the costs down on your energy bill is to switch your energy tariff regularly. This isn't something people are always used to doing, with around two-thirds of us having never switched. As part of the national campaign 'Big Energy Saving Week', organised by Citizens Advice in collaboration with other charitable organisations, Bristol Energy Network (BEN) will be offering top tips to make your home warmer, more efficient and cheaper to heat. BEN will be working with local organisations including Citizens Advice, Talking Money, North Bristol Advice Centre and Bristol City Council, to provide energy advice and help people across Bristol cut their fuel bills and get all the financial support they are entitled to.

Remember that switching is not only about saving the most money, if you can afford to move to a renewable tariff or provider then do so. Switching is also about changing habits and behaviours and making sure that your home is energy efficient. Here are some top tips and advice on what to do to make your home warmer, more comfortable, more efficient and cheaper to heat:

- To get the cheapest bills you should switch energy supplier every 12 months! Have a look at comparison websites such as Citizens Advice <https://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/>, Flipper: <https://flipper.community/> or uSwitch <https://www.uswitch.com/>.
- Draught proofing can prevent a lot of heat loss from your home! To keep the heat in, you can buy (or even make) draught excluders for the bottom of your doors.
- Suspended flooring can lead to draughts coming through floorboards or skirting boards. Rather than taking the floor up to insulate below, if the floor cover needs replacing, use a good quality underlay and carpet to provide insulation and prevent draughts.
- Secondary glazing can make a big difference to draughty windows. For a low cost solution, you can install this yourself using cling film or secondary glazing film. You can also order secondary glazing cut to size from many online companies.
- If you have a little more budget, wall insulation is a great investment. It costs between £100 and £150 per square metre and will make your home a lot warmer, reducing condensation and lowering your heating bills.
- Install energy efficiency measures such as changing to LED bulbs. Switching to traditional LED bulbs can save 90% of the energy used for lighting. They cost a little more but pay for themselves within two years and they can last for up to 20 years!

- We all know about switching the lights off, but did you know that turning chargers and appliances off standby can save you £60-80 a year
- Be energy-wise: wait until there is a full load before using the washing machine or dishwasher, and only boil the water you need in the kettle
- Make the most of the advice available in Bristol! There are a host of local agencies offering advice on energy saving, why not make the most of them!

For more top energy saving tips and tricks why not join BEN, Citizen's Advice, Centre for Sustainable Energy and a range of other agencies at Broadwalk shopping centre tomorrow. From 11am- 2pm we'll be offering you the chance to switch provider, get some energy saving freebies and take part in our prize draw.

For more information on all of the above, visit the Bristol Energy Network website at <http://bristolenergynetwork.org/big-switch/>.

Follow us on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BristolEnergyNetwork

Twitter [@BristolEnergyNw](https://twitter.com/BristolEnergyNw)