

BIG ENERGY SAVING WEEK...

**Saving money on
energy in rural areas**

- CHECK**
- SWITCH**
- SAVE**



Top tips for saving money on energy in rural areas

It can be more expensive to pay for energy in rural areas, especially if you don't have mains gas. Here are some ways you can save money.

Shop around to reduce your energy bills

You can often reduce your energy bills by switching tariff, payment method or supplier. It is still worth doing this even if you do not have mains gas. Take control and visit [energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk](https://www.energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk) or call Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06.

Electricity

If you use electricity to heat your home with storage heaters and hot water, it is usually cheaper to pay for your electricity with a time-of-use tariff such as Economy 7. Make sure you understand how to use the heating controls on your storage heater to get good value for the electricity you use and adequate warmth when you need it.

Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)

If you use LPG for heating, hot water or cooking, you can shop around for a better deal 2 years after your current supplier installed your LPG tank, or sometimes even sooner. Check your supply contract to see what your minimum period with your current supplier is – it can't be longer than 2 years.

Solid fuel

If you use coal or wood to heat your home, it is usually cheaper to buy in bulk than in smaller bags.

Heating oil

If you use heating oil you can save money by:

- filling your tank before winter when oil is generally cheaper
- asking several oil suppliers for quotes to get the best price
- joining an oil club if you have one in your area. Find out more at: [acre.org.uk/rural-issues/oil-buying](https://www.acre.org.uk/rural-issues/oil-buying) (England only)

If you have problems paying up-front for your LPG, heating oil or solid fuel, some suppliers will allow you to make payments in several instalments.

Improve the energy efficiency standards of your home

You can save money on your fuel bills and keep your home warmer by installing (or topping up) loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, solid wall insulation or an efficient boiler or storage heater.

You may get help for this if you are in receipt of certain benefits through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme. Low income consumers in Wales and Scotland can also get grants for energy efficiency improvements from the Nest scheme in Wales or HEEPS scheme in Scotland. There are also local schemes in some parts of the country. Contact your council to find out if there is one in your area. You can find more information at:

[simpleenergyadvice.org.uk](https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk)
(England and Wales)

[nestwales.org.uk](https://www.nestwales.org.uk)
or call 0808 808 2244 (Wales)

[energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland](https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland)
or call 0808 808 2282 (Scotland)

Further information

Great Britain wide

Citizens Advice energy advice
citizensadvice.org.uk/energy

Citizens Advice consumer service
03454 04 05 06; for textphone, dial 18001
followed by the helpline number

Winter Fuel Payments helpline
03459 15 15 15

There are also lots of useful fact sheets about
making your home warmer and saving
money on your fuel bills on these websites:

Energy Saving Trust
energysavingtrust.org.uk

Simple Energy Advice
simpleenergyadvice.org.uk

National Energy Action
www.nea.org.uk

Scotland

Home Energy Scotland
energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland
or call **0808 808 2282**

Wales

Nest
nestwales.org.uk or call **0808 808 2244**

Other relevant organisations

Acre (Action with Communities in
Rural England): **acre.org.uk**

Federation for Petroleum Suppliers
(the trade association for heating oil
suppliers): **fpsonline.co.uk**

UKLPG (the trade association for
LPG suppliers): **uklpg.org**

Calor Gas has a FREE programme
(Future Rural Energy) to tackle fuel
poverty and promote energy efficiency in
off-gas and rural areas: **calor.co.uk/free**

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