

Energy Efficiency Information and Advice



Action for Warm Homes

STAY WARM STAY HEALTHY DURING WINTER

The Winter months can make it difficult to keep a warm, dry home. Now is a good time to think about a winter warmth plan.

If you haven't already done so, check on the following:

ORDER HEATING OIL

If you have an Oil Fired Central Heating System remember it is cheaper to buy home heating oil in bulk if possible. Oil clubs can help if you want to order a small amount.

To find out if there is an oil club in your area, call **Bryson Energy on 0800 1422 865**.

DOES YOUR HOME HAVE CAVITY WALL INSULATION AND LOFT INSULATION?

Insulation will prevent heat loss from your home, keeping the heat where it is needed.

If you are a homeowner or rent your home from a private landlord, you may be eligible for a grant to have free or partially funded insulation for your home.

For further details call NINEA on 028 9023 9909.

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR CENTRAL HEATING BOILER SERVICED?

As well as maintaining the boiler to operate at its best, this is an important safety check as any faults, including fuel leaks, can be spotted and repaired at an early stage.



CHECK FOR DRAUGHTS

The main sources of draughts are from gaps around doors and windows, but letterboxes and unused chimneys can also be a source. Check for gaps round pipework inside kitchen cupboards, under the sink. Draught-proofing is a fairly inexpensive way to prevent heat loss and improve comfort.

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If there is a warning of a possible power cut...

...**know** where the trip switch is located

...**have** candles ready, but never leave a burning candle unattended

...**keep** a torch handy

...**keep** your mobile phone charged

...**fill** a flask with boiling water to make hot drinks

NIE Network's **critical care register** is available to customers who are dependent on life supporting electrical equipment. Register with NIE Network and they will provide you with the most up to date information during a power cut or planned interruption.

Customers can register for critical care over the phone or online at nienetworks.co.uk

For further information and to register call **03457 643 643**.

Customers can also check for faults on the Powercheck facility:

<https://powercheck.nienetworks.co.uk/>

To report a power cut, call **NIE Networks** on:

03457 643 643



Using LEDs rather than traditional bulbs can save around £7 each per year.

Multiply that by the number of light bulbs in your home to see how much you could save.

Save on lighting your home

Energy efficient lighting has come a long way from the original large bulbs that were slow to light fully. They are now smaller and look more like traditional bulbs.

Although they are more expensive to buy, LEDs give the same amount of light while using less energy and saving you money in the long run.

A traditional 60 Watt light bulb costs around £9.40 a year to use. A 810 Lumens (LMS) 10 Watt LED will give the same amount of light. Because it uses less energy, it only costs around £1.56 a year to use.

That's a saving of over £7 a year for each light bulb.

And LEDs also last much longer than traditional light bulbs, so you save over a longer number of years.

How many light bulbs could you replace at home?

Don't believe all you hear!

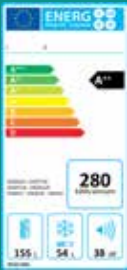
1. Cranking up the room thermostat heats your home faster. **FALSE!**

Your room thermostat turns your heating system on or off according to the temperature it is set to. No matter how high you set the temperature on the room thermostat, the rate at which your central heating distributes heat remains constant. To heat your home faster, install better insulation. This decreases the rate at which heat is lost through your walls, loft, windows, and floor – heating your home faster and keeping it warm for longer when the heat is turned off.

2. It is always cheaper to run appliances, such as washing machines, at night than during the day. **FALSE!**

While some households in the UK are on tariffs that vary depending on the time of day, such as Economy 7, the majority of customers pay the same rate at all times of day and night. However, if you know you are already on an Economy 7 tariff, or are considering switching to one, then running appliances during off-peak periods will be cheaper.

Buying new appliances?



All new appliances should have an energy label. When buying new appliances like a washing machine or a fridge look out for the energy label. The A*** rated appliance is the more efficient and will cost you less to run.



TRUE!

“Leaving appliances on standby when not in use wastes energy. Switch off at the wall and pull out the plug!”

Winter Freeze Advice

During spells of severely cold weather it is possible for water pipes in your home to freeze which may lead to a burst pipe when the thaw sets in.

This can cause inconvenience and damage to your home and belongings. There are some simple precautions you can take to reduce the risk of frozen pipes and how to deal with a burst pipe.

To help prevent pipes from freezing:

- Ensure water tanks and pipes are lagged / insulated, especially in unheated areas such as roof spaces, garages and outbuildings.
- Set your heating system to come on for short periods during the day, even when you are out.
- If you are going to be away from home, leave the heating on a low setting and ask a neighbour to check your house regularly.
- Service your boiler annually. In all instances it is recommended that a competent, certified installer carries out any service or maintenance of your boiler.
- For Oil Fired Central heating boilers it is recommended an OFTEC registered installer is used and for Gas Boilers, a GasSafe registered installer should be used.

Please visit www.oftec.org.uk or www.gassaferegister.co.uk for more information

"Frozen pipes may burst when they thaw"

Dealing with frozen pipes

- Turn the water supply off at the stopcock.
- Protect everything around the pipe that appears to be frozen to avoid damage if it bursts.
- Thaw the pipe with a hot water bottle or a cloth soaked in hot water beginning from the tap end and work back towards the cold water tank.
- Don't leave taps dripping or running. Water may not be able to flush away if pipes are frozen.
- If you have a solid fuel open fire with a back boiler, you should let the fire go out.
- If you have oil, gas or a wood pellet boiler you should reduce your water usage, but you can continue to run your heating at a low setting.

“Never use a heat gun or blow torch to Thaw a frozen pipe”



If you have a burst pipe...

- Turn the water supply off at the stopcock.
- Turn on all the cold taps to reduce flooding.
- Block the escaping water with towels or thick cloths.
- If the water has come into contact with electrical fittings the electricity should be turned off at the mains if it is safe to do so. If water has come into contact with the Mains Box, do not attempt to touch and do not use any electrical equipment in the house.
- Turn off your gas or oil central heating system.
- Call a qualified plumber. It is recommended you use an approved Plumbing Contractor. Go to www.needaplumber.org or phone the Scottish and NI Plumbers federation on 0845 224 0391.

If you have no water and think it is a water mains problem, call **NI Water on 08457 440 088** or email waterline@niwater.com

Compare and Switch

The domestic electricity market in Northern Ireland is open to competition, this means you can shop around for your electricity supply. The domestic natural gas market in Greater Belfast and Larne are also open to competition, this means all domestic customers in these areas can shop around for their natural gas.

You can also save without switching energy supplier by changing your payment method; how you receive your bill; and by checking to see if you are on the most suitable tariff (unit price).

Things to consider before switching energy supplier:

Which supplier's unit price is the cheapest?

What discounts are available?

What are the payment options?

Who will read the meter?*

How will I receive my bill?

What are the terms of the contract?

You can check the latest unit prices on the Consumer Council website, and make comparisons: www.consumerCouncil.org.uk/energy

*NIE Networks reads all electricity meters in Northern Ireland, no matter who supplies your electricity.



Action for Warm Homes

National Energy Action is the national energy efficiency charity campaigning for warm homes.

NEA has over 30 years' experience designing and delivering projects to demonstrate new and innovative ways to tackle fuel poverty.

Working in partnership with local councils, housing associations, the health sector, the energy industry, the community and voluntary sector and other public and private organisations; our projects influence strategic development; enhance delivery capabilities and bring affordable warmth to communities.

National Energy Action NI
Tel: 028 9023 9909
www.nea.org.uk

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