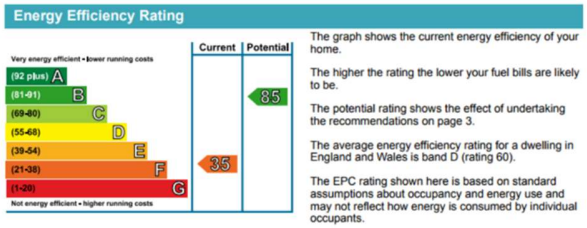
DIY Home Energy Checklist Guidance

If you would like professional advice on lowering energy bills, switching provider/tariff or accessing financial assistance then contact the National Energy Foundation's Better Housing Better Health scheme to request a home assessment by visiting https://www.bhbh.org.uk/request-an-assessment/ or you can call **0800 107 0044.**

In the meantime, there are steps you can take to assess your home's energy efficiency and simple changes you can make to improve it. Conducting a home energy audit yourself involves taking a systematic approach. Start by walking through each room and noting areas where energy might be wasted. Simple checks, like feeling for drafts near windows and doors, inspecting insulation and ensuring appliances are working correctly. Understanding your heating and water system, the energy efficiency of your home and the rates of your current provider and tariff are also important in ensuring you are making the most of your energy.

1. Look up your property's Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)

All properties are required to have an EPC, this should be shared with you at the time of purchasing or leasing your property. You can look up the details of your property's EPC at https://www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate Certificates are valid for 10 years, if yours has expired you can have a new assessment carried out for £60-£120.



This is a document that sets out the assessed energy efficiency and potential CO2 emissions for a property. The property is rated on a scale from A to G with A being excellent and G very bad. Very few houses achieve an A-rating, most tend to be D or above, and generally the newer the property, the higher the EPC rating. Rental properties must be rated E or higher. The EPC includes information on how much money could be saved by the property regarding lighting, heating and hot water by implementing energy efficiency measures. These could be small measures such as purchasing a hot water tank jacket for £30 all the way up more major works such as having double-glazing installed. The EPC rating is based on average usage so is not reflective of the number of people living in the home, it also does not take into account the electricity used for appliances such as freezers, washing machines and televisions, so whatever estimates it states the actual bills are going to be higher.

2. Ensure appliances are working correctly

Appliances that work correctly waste less energy so we can ensure we are getting the most out of them by keeping them in good working order. It is recommended that all boilers are serviced annually, by law landlords are required to ensure annual safety checks are carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer. Radiators that are cold at the top and warm at the bottom when the heating is switched on will need be 'bled' to remove the air which has become trapped in the system. Once the air has been removed the radiator will function at full capacity again, therefore ensuring the energy is being efficiently used. This doesn't just apply to heating appliances – washing machines, dishwashers, ovens, microwaves, even televisions will use less energy if they are in good working order so getting rid of a build up of dirt, replacing damaged parts or, where necessary, replacing a damaged appliance will prevent energy you are paying for being wasted.

3. Understanding and using temperature controls

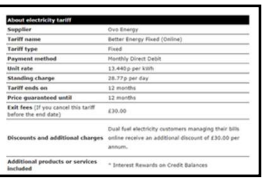
Most central heating systems will have a thermostat on each floor of the home. This dictates the ambient temperature the space needs to reach before the heating will turn off. However, this can lead to heating spaces in the home unnecessarily so there are other devices that can be used to counteract overuse of energy. These include Thermostatic Radiator Valves which are used to control the temperature of individual radiators and can be turned down in rooms which have less use.

It is also important to understand how to set your programmer to ensure that room heating and hot water is being created at the correct times of day, relevant to the needs of your household. The recommended day time temperature range for most people is 18-21c and it may take 30 minutes to get up to right temperature and 30 minutes to reduce again so factor this is when setting the controls so you're not wasting energy and money.

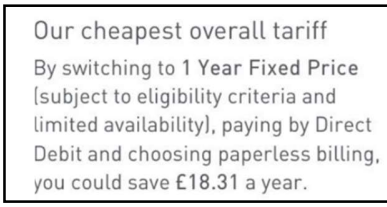
4. Changing supplier or tariff

Energy bills are required to include three pieces of information to help the householder make the right supplier and tariff choice for them. These are:

Tariff Information Label (TIL) This provides standardized information about the tariff making it easier for consumers to compare products. It includes information on the unit cost, standing charge, discounts applied and payment method.



About electricity tariff	
Supplier	Ovo Energy
Tariff name	Better Energy Fixed (Online)
Tariff type	Fixed
Payment method	Monthly Direct Debit
Unit rate	13.440p per kWh
Standing charge	28.771p per day
Tariff ends on	12 months
Price guaranteed until	12 months
Exit fees (if you cancel this tariff before the end date)	£30.00
Discounts and additional charges	Dual fuel electricity customers managing their bills online receive an additional discount of £30.00 per annum.
Additional products or services included	• Interest Rewards on Credit Balances



Our cheapest overall tariff

By switching to 1 Year Fixed Price (subject to eligibility criteria and limited availability), paying by Direct Debit and choosing paperless billing, you could save £18.31 a year.

Cheapest Tariff Message (CTM) is a message that appears on a utility bill which is personalized to the customer, informing them what the cheapest tariff available to them is with their current supplier including an estimate on potential savings based on projected usage.

A QR code which, once scanned with a smartphone camera or QR code reading app, will direct the customer directly to information the energy company thinks is useful this could be a portal to log in to their online account a suppliers webpage or a phone number to speak to an advisor or an automated helpline. Small energy providers do not have to provide QR codes.

5. Implement ways to reduce heat loss

Once we've heated a space we want to ensure we are using as much of that energy as possible. Heat will move to cooler areas so we need to implement ways to reduce how much of that heat moves away from where we need it. Ensuring a property is well insulated is key, these are some simple and cost-effective steps that can be implemented in any home:

- covering floors with rugs or blankets
- closing doors between rooms & hallways
- draft excluders and letterbox brushes
- chimney ballons
- Keeping curtains closed and tucking them behind radiators
- radiator reflector panels
- hot water tank covers and pipe insulation
- draft strips around doors and window
- install secondary glazing

Important – don't block up air bricks.

These are required for ventilation which is key in preventing the build up of damp and condensation.