



Green Doctor Newsletter



August/September 2022

Price cap clarification

Firstly, I wanted to clarify that anytime you are hearing about the word “price cap” with regards to energy, either in the media or in this newsletter it is referring to the price per unit and the standing charge being capped – not the amount you pay. It is important to make this distinction as some reports are stating a price cap in a misleading way making people think that no matter how much they use they will only be paying that amount. This is not the case, the more energy you use, the more it will cost you. The annual amounts mentioned are an example of what an average household would use, not the amount at which your bill is capped to!



REMEMBER – IF YOU USE LESS, YOU PAY LESS; USE MORE, YOU PAY MORE!

October energy cap increase no longer 80%! Hurrah!

On 8th September 2022 the government announced that there would be a different cap on energy prices. This would supersede the Ofgem cap which was looking to increase the average bill to £3,000 in October 2022 and go as high as £6,000 by April 2023. The new cap will run until October 2024 and means that a household using the average amount of energy (12,000kWh of gas and 2,900kWh of electricity) would only pay £2,500 a year for their energy. The average standing charge costs (standing charge and unit rates vary by region) for direct debit are 46.36p per day for electricity and 28.49p per day for gas and the average unit costs are 34.04p for electricity and 10.33p for gas (previously been paying 28.34p for electricity and 7.37p for gas). Prepayment meter average costs are just over £50 a year more than direct debit costs with standing charges being 51.41p for electricity and 37.51p for gas and unit costs being 33.08p kWh for electricity and 10.63p kWh for gas.

This new price cap is a relief to many but it is still going to be an increase of about 25% from the current average price of £1,971 and still around a 100% increase on January 2022's £1,277. The government have confirmed that the assistance package set out in April is still going to be applied:

- this means that the people on Universal Credit and similar means tested benefits who received their £325 payment will be receiving their 2nd payment in the coming months
- the £150 payment for those with disabilities is still going ahead in winter
- the £300 payment for pensioners is still going ahead in winter
- the £400 energy payment for households is still going ahead and will be paid in monthly instalments of £66 from October

BEWARE ENERGY SCAM TEXTS!

Unfortunately there are some people seeking to capitalise on the strain that the energy crisis is putting on households and are sending texts or emails claiming to be from the government, an energy supplier or even Ofgem. These texts and emails are telling people they are “owed” or “eligible” for the £400 energy discount and to apply {here} – which is a link to a convincing but fake website where they can then get your details. You don’t need to apply for any of the assistance that the government has outlined in their April support package, it is all automated through the Department of Work and Pensions or the energy companies themselves. If you have queries regarding whether you are eligible for any of the assistance please check here

(<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2022/05/rishi-sunak-martin-lewis-living-costs/#benefits>) or on the government’s own websites before chasing your energy company or the DWP.



Winter warm packs



Groundwork and the Cadent Foundation are coming together again this winter and will be creating a number of winter warm packs to be distributed to those in need this winter. The packs contain hat, scarf, gloves, blanket and a hot water bottle and will be available from mid/late October. If you know of people who could benefit from one of these packs, please do not hesitate to contact Mike via e-mail.

Heating oil and alternate heating fuels

It was mentioned by the government that they were looking to introduce a £100 payment for people who are heating their homes via methods other than mains gas or electricity. This information has yet to be finalised and released but it was said that there would be an additional £100 payment as well as the £400 energy payment to help with the costs. Hopefully the information confirming how people can get this payment will be released in the coming weeks.

Another Happy Customer!

A recent referral of the Green Doctor service had Mike visit her and her father’s home and had nothing but praise for Mike saying that he was an **“exemplary worker and a credit to your organisation”** and that **“The information he gave was comprehensive and at a level I could understand. He went beyond his brief and helped me reprogramme my central heating system.”** Mike had advised what real-life use you actually get from a kWh and what her devices actually cost to run, informed her of the assistance packages she could benefit from and installed LED lightbulbs saving between £5 and £15 worth of energy a year per bulb.

Community events

Our Green Doctors have been to a number of events over the past few months including Severn Trent Water’s cost of living event in Sneinton, drop-in advice session at Daybrook Baptist Church, Nottingham Community Housing Association’s cost of living events around Nottinghamshire and an advice session at one of Housing 21’s Retirement homes in Derbyshire.



If you would like to arrange for our Green Doctor to come to your community event or group, please do not hesitate to contact Mike on the details at the end of the newsletter and he'll be happy to discuss how we can help.

Green Doctor Service

We are still providing either in home visits or a phone consultation service depending on people's requirements. These are some of the free services we offer when someone signs up for a Green Doctor consultation: -

- Identifying causes of heat loss in the home
- Helping identify and tackle damp or mould problems
- Offering useful tips for saving energy and water whilst ensuring your home stays safe and comfortable
- Installing small energy and water efficiency measures, such as draft excluders
- Supporting you to access other support, government subsidies or grants, advice on energy or water debt

If you would like to know more about the service or make a referral, please use one of the following ways:



07771 362 853 (Mike)



<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/green-doctor-2/>



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<https://www.facebook.com/GreenDoctorNottingham>