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CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY AS NPOWER RE-IGNITES ONLINE ENERGY PRICE

Christmas has come early for cash-strapped consumers as energy suppliers re-ignite the battle to offer the cheapest online energy plan. The latest move comes today from npower, which has brought out a new plan costing £907 a year on average, undercutting British Gas by £22 and OVO by £14^[1]. The British Gas plan – Websaver 5 – was only launched last week showing the swiftness with which suppliers are moving to undercut each other to get ahead in the online market.

Will Marples, energy expert at uSwitch.com, says: “With online plans consistently cheaper than standard plans and currently offering a substantial saving of just under £300 a year, this is where consumers should look to get a good deal and to cut the cost of their energy. It is good to see suppliers continuing to offer competitive new online tariffs, providing customers with more choice and better savings – particularly in the run up to Christmas.

“The average cost of an online energy plan is now £943 compared to £1,239 for a standard plan^[1], but people still need to wake up to the benefits of moving online. Just 5% or 1.3 million households are on online energy plans^[2] and take-up is particularly low amongst vulnerable groups such as the elderly and low income families. Consumers must help themselves by snapping up these cheaper deals – they will be giving themselves a £300 price cut with little or no effort at all. It’s such a simple way to substantially cut your bills and to enjoy lower prices next year.”

Supplier	Standard Plan (paying on receipt of bill)	Online Plan (paying by monthly direct debit)	Difference between standard plan and online plan	Online plan name
npower	£1,256	£907	£349	Sign Online 17 Dual Fuel
Ovo	n/a	£921 ⁽¹⁾	n/a	Ovo New Energy
British Gas	£1,202	£929	£273	WebSaver 5 Dual Fuel
ScottishPower	£1,362	£952	£410	Online Energy Saver 7
E.ON	£1,232	£954	£278	FixOnline4
First:Utility	n/a	£954 ⁽²⁾	n/a	iSave Dual Fuel
Scottish and Southern Energy	£1,192	£960	£232	Atlantic On-line fixed price
EDF Energy	£1,189	£963	£226	Online S@ver 4
Average	£1,239	£943	£297	

Source: uSwitch.com

Based on a medium user consuming 3300kWh electricity and 20,500kWh gas with bill sizes averaged across all regions.

1. Ovo Energy is not available in the Scottish-Hydro energy region

2. first:utility iSave plan is not available in East Midlands or Midlands

For more information visit www.uSwitch.com or call 0800 093 06 07

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