



For immediate release: Thursday 12 January, 2012

SSE CUTS GAS PRICES

- SSE is cutting its prices by 4.5% or £28 for gas from 26th March^[1]
- Average household bill for a dual fuel SSE customer will now drop from £1,265 to £1,237 – £199 or 19% higher than its average bill of £1,038 in October 2010^[2]
- SSE increased prices by £171 or 16% in 2011^[2]
- Overall, suppliers put prices up last year by 21% or £224, adding £2.24 billion onto household energy bills^[3].

Ann Robinson, Director of Consumer Policy at uSwitch.com, says: "Suppliers are falling like dominoes, with three of the big six having reduced their energy prices within less than two days. But disappointingly for consumers, none have implemented cuts for both gas and electricity. And while British Gas customers will feel the benefit immediately, EDF Energy's cuts won't come into effect until February. SSE customers won't see their prices drop until the end of March - when the cold weather is likely to be coming to an end – but they will benefit from the extended guarantee that SSE won't increase prices before October 2012.

"The bottom line for consumers is that these cuts will go nowhere near cancelling out the £224 or 21% hike in prices they've seen in the last 18 months^[3]. We can only hope that these reductions are the first, and more will follow. But households can help to mitigate the impact of higher bills by shopping around for a cheaper deal and cutting back on the amount of energy they use by being more energy efficient. Moving to dual fuel, paying by direct debit and signing up to a competitively priced deal will save you up to £420^[4], far more than price cuts will give you based on today's evidence."

Average household energy bills after price cuts:

Supplier	October 2010	November 2011	After announced price decrease
British Gas	£1,030	£1,286	£1,260

EDF Energy	£1,037	£1,241	£1,203
E.ON	£1,061	£1,293	-
npower	£1,095	£1,282	-
ScottishPower	£1,152	£1,391	-
SSE	£1,038	£1,265	£1,237
Average	£1,069	£1,293	£1,278

Source: uSwitch.com

Based on a medium user consuming 3,300 kWh of electricity and 16,500 kWh of gas with bill sizes averaged across all regions.

Best buy energy deals:

Supplier	Plan Name	Price
First: Utility	iSave Dual Fuel V9	£1,030
Ovo Energy	New Energy Fixed	£1,061
npower	Go Fix 10	£1,078
ScottishPower	Online Energy Saver 17	£1,085
E.ON	SaveOnline 11	£1,106
British Gas	Online Energy	£1,142
Co-op Energy	Pioneer	£1,145
EDF Energy	Price Protection 2013	£1,165
SSE	Online Standard	£1,179

Source: uSwitch.com

Based on a medium user consuming 3,300 kWh of electricity and 16,500 kWh of gas with bill sizes averaged across all regions.

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

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Notes to editors:

1. SSE press release issued [12/01/12]
2. Based on a medium user customer using 3,300 kWh of electricity and 16,500 kWh of gas, on a British Gas standard Dual Fuel plan, paying quarterly by cash or cheque with bill sizes averaged across all regions.
3. Customers affected taken from individual supplier announcements as follows: SSE (announcement 29/10/2010) increase to affect around 3.6 million customers, British Gas (announcement 12/11/2010) increase will affect around 8 million customers, ScottishPower (announcement on 19/11/2010) move to affect around 2.5 million customers, nPower (announcement on 10/12/2010) move to affect around 6.2 million customers, E.ON (announcement on 11/01/2011) move to affect around 4.3 million customers. EDF Energy (announcement 3/2/2011) will affect 3.3 million customers. These add up to 27.9 million customers. uSwitch.com estimates 10 million standard plan customers based on 26 million households and Ofgem statistics showing that 7 million customers are on price guarantee plans, 3.5 million are on online tariffs, 3.8 million electricity customers and 2.6 million gas customers are on PPMs. The average increase from the first wave of price rises for a customer on a standard plan, based on a medium user profile using 3,300kWh of electricity and 16,500kWh of gas paying on receipt of bill, was £63. Taking this increase over 10 million standard plan customers totals £630 million added to consumer bills. On the same basis, the second wave of increases added £1.61 billion to bills.
4. Between 1st July, 2011 and 31st October, 2011 at least 10% of people who switched energy supplier for both gas and electricity with uSwitch.com saved £420 or more.

About us

uSwitch.com is a free, impartial, online and telephone-based comparison and switching service, helping consumers compare prices on gas, electricity, water, heating cover, home telephone, broadband, digital television, mobile phones and personal finance products including mortgages, credit cards, current accounts and insurance. In 2010 uSwitch.com celebrated ten years of saving customers money.

uSwitch.com is the first comparison website to achieve the Plain English Campaign's Internet Crystal Mark, which is recognised as a standard that a website has clear language, is accessible and easy to use, and has been tested on a sample of its users.

uSwitch.com is dedicated to helping consumers save money whether they have internet access or not. It offers a dedicated call centre, manned by uSwitch customer service representatives, as well as a freepost 'Send us your bill' service, whereby customers can post their latest energy bills with their telephone number to FREEPOST USWITCH, to get a free call back from a dedicated customer services representative. The service is also available via fax, email and post. Consumers should fax 0203 214 8417, email CustomerServices@uswitch.com or write to Customer Services, uSwitch.com, Centro 3, 19 Mandela Street, London, NW1 0DU with their postcode and usage details.

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