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EDF ENERGY CUTS GAS PRICES

- **EDF Energy is cutting its prices by 5% or £38 for gas with effect from 7th February 2012^[1]**
- **Average household bill for a dual fuel EDF Energy customer will now drop from £1,241 to £1,203 – £166 or 16% higher than its average bill of £1,037 in September 2010^[2]**
- **EDF Energy increased prices by £195 or 19% last year^[2]**
- **Overall, suppliers put prices up in the last 18 months by 21% or £224, adding £2.24 billion onto household energy bills^[3].**

The waiting game is over for consumers as one of Britain's biggest energy suppliers, EDF energy, has announced that it is cutting its gas prices. The reduction – 5% or £38 for gas – comes into effect on 7th February 2012^[1]. It means that the average EDF Energy dual fuel bill will drop from £1,241 to £1,203^[2].

It is the first big six supplier to respond to lower wholesale costs by cutting prices for customers. Its move follows similar announcements by small suppliers Co-operative Energy and Ovo Energy. Now that EDF Energy has responded, other big six suppliers will be under pressure to bring their prices down again too, although reductions look unlikely to wipe out the £224 or 21% increase seen by households last year^[3].

EDF Energy increased its prices by 19% or £195 last year^[2]. Its average household energy bill in October 2010 was £1,037. After today's cuts it will be £1,203 - £166 or 16% higher than just over a year ago^[2].

Ann Robinson, Director of Consumer Policy at uSwitch.com, says: "Pressure to cut prices has been mounting and now one of Britain's biggest energy suppliers has let the cork out of the bottle. As well as being the last supplier to increase their prices last year, EDF Energy has become the first to announce a price cut. It's good news for consumers, but look through the fizz

and the bubbles and we're left with the cold reality that prices are still substantially higher than they were just over a year ago. The fact is that prices rocketed by £224 or 21% in the last 18 months^[3] – at the moment EDF Energy customers will only see their gas bills decrease, and the cut doesn't go anywhere near cancelling out the most recent price hikes.

"However, hopefully this move will put more pressure on the rest of the big six to follow suit and cut their prices too. But households can mitigate the impact of high energy bills by shopping around for a cheaper deal and cutting back on the amount of energy they use. 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:

Supplier	October 2010	November 2011	After announced price decrease
British Gas	£1,030	£1,286	-
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	
Average	£1,069	£1,293	£1,287

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
Co-op Energy	Pioneer	£1,145
British Gas	Online Fixed	£1,150
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. EDF press release 11th January 2012.
2. Based on a medium user customer using 3,300 kWh of electricity and 16,500 kWh of gas, on an EDF 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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