



For immediate release: Monday, 5th September 2011

**USWITCH.COM COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT PREDICTIONS THAT GREEN POLICIES
COULD ADD £300 TO ENERGY BILLS**

Today's report^[1] that household energy bills could rise by more than £300 a year as a result of the Coalition's green policies could be catastrophic for consumers, according to uSwitch.com, the independent price comparison and switching service.

Ann Robinson, Director of Consumer Policy at uSwitch.com, says: "Today's report of energy bills increasing by up to 30% over the next decade could be the last straw for many consumers. And with winter approaching, the worrying news is that our research shows that once the most recent round of price hikes have kicked in, almost a staggering 7 million British households could be left shivering under the spectre of fuel poverty^[2]."

"In the age of rising energy prices, consumers have to take their bills into their own hands to ensure they are paying the best price for their energy and making sure they are on the right tariff. But all households should also look to invest in longer-term energy efficiency measures. Solar panels can be picked up for free and could cut your electricity bill by £130. Other measures such as insulating lofts and cavity walls for less than £200 could cut your bills by £340. And for those who may struggle with these initial costs, it's worth remembering that suppliers have a pot of money to help customers make their homes more energy efficient."

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

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For more information please contact:

Katherine Cooper, uSwitch.com on 0207 802 2961 or katherinecooper@uswitch.com
Beth Murray, Lansons Communications on 0207 566 9728 or bethm@lansons.com

Notes to editors:

1. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8741032/Environment-policy-reforms-to-add-300-to-energy-bills.html>

2. BERR previously estimated that for every 1% increase in gas and electricity bills, a further 40,000 households are plunged into fuel poverty. Price rises since April 2011 have added 12% onto the average energy bill and therefore pushed an extra 480,000 people into fuel poverty. Total fuel poverty numbers come from research conducted by YouGov on behalf of uSwitch.com. Total sample size was 2,323 adults with bill paying responsibility for their household. Fieldwork was undertaken 12th-15th April 2011. The survey was carried out online. The figures were weighted and representative of all GB adults (aged 18+). The groups identified as in fuel poverty were calculated by cross referencing type of household and social grade (ABC1 classified as middle class, C2DE classified as working class) with net monthly household income and average monthly energy spend. Respondents who answered "Don't Know" or "Prefer not to say" have been excluded from fuel poverty calculations. Fuel poverty calculation = Monthly energy bill divided by net monthly income. Those who were spending 10% or more of their net monthly income on energy bills are classified as being in fuel poverty. The research showed 6.3 million or 24% of all households could be classed as fuel poor.

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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