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E.ON OFFER REMEDY FOR PRICE RISE FEARS

With recent talk of energy prices potentially going up again, today's launch of a new fixed price plan by E.ON is great news for consumers looking for peace of mind, says uSwitch.com, the independent price comparison and switching service.

Thomas Lyon, energy expert at uSwitch.com, says: "With all the recent noise about energy prices going up and two suppliers having already hinted rises are in the pipeline, this new fixed price plan from E.ON could be a lifeline especially for those who are worried about their household budget.

"As well as offering security, this plan is part of E.ON and Tesco's consumer-friendly partnership that will help cash strapped households to meet the cost of their energy bills. As well as being able to collect points for their energy, Tesco customers will be able use their vouchers to pay their bills. For every £10 worth of Tesco Clubcard vouchers customers on the scheme can clear £15 off their energy bill – this means that they will get far greater value by using the vouchers to pay for their energy than for buying groceries. In this case every little really does help.

"But, fixing prices does come at a premium. With an average annual bill size of £1,126^[1] E.ON's Fixed Price 5 is £171 a year more expensive than the cheapest plan on the market^[2]. It's not even the cheapest fixed or capped plan^[3], but it is cheaper than the average standard plan, offers fixed prices until 2013 and has the bonus of clubcard points.

"Fixed plans are definitely right for some, but they do carry a premium. Online energy plans consistently offer the lowest prices, coming in at around £200 a year cheaper than standard tariffs^[2]. An online plan could be a good option for those who want to enjoy low prices today while having the flexibility to move onto a fixed price plan in the future if it looks like prices are going to go up."

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

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Notes to editors:

1. Source: E.ON press release
2. The current average bill is £1,132 based on a medium user consuming 3,300kWh electricity and 16,500 kWh gas per annum on a standard energy plan paying on receipt of bill with bill sizes averaged across the big six suppliers and all regions. The cheapest plan is British Gas Websaver 12 at £955, based on a medium user consuming 3300kWh electricity and 16,500kWh gas with bill sizes averaged across all regions.
3. See table below. Average bill size for a medium user profile consuming 3,300kWh of electricity and 16,500 kWh of gas per annum, paying by fixed monthly direct debit. All bill sizes averaged across all available regions.

Table showing fixed plans for the Big 6 Suppliers:

Supplier	Plan Name	Date prices are fixed to	Average Bill Size (£)	Additional Info
EDF Energy	Fixed S@ver 2	30.09.2012	£1,009	Cancellation fee of £50 for Dual Fuel customers if you leave before 30th September 2012
npower	Go Fix 6	31.07.2012	£1,014	£20 cancellation fee per fuel if you leave before 31 July 2012
First Utility	iSave Dual Fuel V8	3 months from going live	£1,032	No Cancellation Fees - However, you must remain with First Utility for 12 Months in order to receive the full discount.
OVO Energy	New Energy Fixed	12 months from going live	£1,050	Cancellation fee of £60 if you leave before 12 months
EDF Energy	Fix Price 2014	31.03.2014	£1,084	Cancellation fees may apply as follows if you choose to change supplier or tariff: £35 per fuel if you leave before 31 March 2012 and £15 per fuel if you leave before 31 March 2013
OVO Energy	Green Energy Fixed	12 months from going live	£1,100	Cancellation fee of £60 will apply if you leave before 12 months
E.ON	Fixed Price v5	01.07.2013	£1,126	No cancellation fee
ScottishPower	Platinum Fixed Energy January 2014 Online V3	31.01.2014	£1,202	Cancellation charges of £30.64 for electricity and £20.42 for gas may apply if you cancel your supply before 31 January 2014
British Gas	Fixed Price June 2012	01.07.2011 - 30.06.2012	£1,240	Cancellation fees of £35 for gas and £35 for electricity
British Gas	Fixed Price March 2013	01.07.2011 - 31.03.2013	£1,307	Cancellation fees of £50 for gas and £50 for electricity

Table showing capped plans for the Big 6 Suppliers:

Supplier	Plan Name	Date prices are fixed to	Average Bill Size (£)	Additional Info
npower	Price Protector	31.07.2012	£1,054	£40 cancellation fee if you leave before 31st July 2012
ScottishPower	Capped Price Energy NSC June 2013 V2	31.05.2013	£1,100	Cancellation fee of £30.64 for electricity and £20.42 for gas if contract terminated before 31st May 2013
ScottishPower	Unifi Capped Price Energy November 2013	November 2013	£1,143	Cancellation fees of up to £152.06 if cancelled before 31st October 2013

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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