



For immediate release: Friday 19th August, 2011

SCOTTISHPOWER OFFERS SOME RELIEF IN FACE OF PRICE RISES

In a week which has seen npower become the fifth supplier to announce a price rise and British Gas the second to implement an increase, ScottishPower has launched a new fixed price energy deal which is the cheapest on the market. This is great news for consumers looking for peace of mind at a difficult time, says uSwitch.com, the independent price comparison and switching service.

Thomas Lyon, energy expert at uSwitch.com, says: “At the end of a bad week for energy customers, where further price rises have left many households desperate about how to manage their winter bills, this new fixed price plan from ScottishPower – the cheapest fix on the market at £1,020 a year^[1] - could prove the lifeline that many have been waiting for. As well as offering security against any further increases until the end of November next year, this fixed price plan is actually cheaper than the average standard plan, meaning consumers can benefit from both lower bills and peace of mind^[2].”

“But while fixed price plans are definitely right for some, with wholesale prices now falling there is a chance that we could see household energy prices remaining steady or even falling in the future. Therefore the decision to fix isn’t quite as clear cut as it was a few months ago. Consumers should be aware that if they fix, while they’ll be protected from further increases they might not benefit from any price decreases. So people should consider the options fully before signing on the dotted line.

“However what is important is that consumers put themselves in a good position ahead of winter. Moving to dual fuel and paying by direct debit will save you money, and if you don’t want to fix, signing up to a competitive online plan will further reduce the price you pay for your energy. Cutting down on the amount you use by becoming more energy efficient will help you save even more.”

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

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Notes to editors:

1. Based on a medium user 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. ScottishPower's Online Fixed Saver December 2012 has an average bill size of £1,020.
2. Based on a medium user 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. The average standard plan is £1,194.

Table showing cheapest fixed price energy plans on the market:

Supplier	Plan Name	Date prices are fixed to	Average Bill Size (£)	Additional Info
ScottishPower	Online Fixed Saver December 2012	30.11.2012	£1,020	Cancellation fees of £30.64 for electricity and £20.42 for gas
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 For 2012	31.12.2012	£1,051	Cancellation fee of £25 per fuel if contract terminated before 31st December 2012
EDF Energy	Fixed 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

Source: uSwitch.com

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.

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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