

Government Cost of Li

As part of the Government plans to assist people with the rising energy costs they have devised a plan to award various payments to help towards the high energy bills that everyone is facing.



- **Who will get the £400 discount?**

Every household will be eligible for the £400 discount.

- **How will I get the discount?**

You don't need to apply for the discount. It will be paid out by electricity suppliers to consumers over six months, with the first payments starting in October 2022.

In October and November, households will get a discount of £66 per month on their energy bills, rising to £67 each month from December through to March 2023.

Every household will get the discount each month, regardless of how you pay for your energy (i.e. by direct debit or pre-payment meter).

- **Do I need to contact my energy supplier for the discount?**

No, you don't need to contact your supplier, however, if you haven't received the first instalment by the end of October 2022, you should get in touch with your energy supplier.

You will never be asked for your bank details.

- **How will the £400 discount be paid?**

You can find more details about how the discount will be paid to you, depending on how you currently pay for your energy:

<https://www.mygov.scot/help-energy-bills>

- **Direct debit**

If you pay for your energy via direct debit, you'll automatically receive a reduction to the amount that's collected by your monthly direct debit, or as a refund to your bank account after the direct debit has gone out.

This will happen once a month over the six-month payment period.

- **Standard credit and payment card**

If you pay using standard credit or a payment card, the discount will be applied automatically as a credit to your account in the first week of each month. The credit will appear in your account as it would if you had made the payment.

- **Smart prepayment meter**

If you pay via a smart prepayment meter, you'll see the discount credited directly to your smart prepayment meter in the first week of each month.

- **Traditional prepayment meter**

Those paying by traditional prepayment meters will receive redeemable vouchers or Special Action Messages (SAMs) in the first week of each month. These will be sent out to you via SMS text message, email or post. You'll then be able to redeem these vouchers at your usual top-up point. It's therefore important your supplier has your current, up-to-date contact details.

- **Is it a loan that I have to pay back?**

The £400 is a grant, not a loan, so will not need to be repaid.

- **Cost of Living Payment**

Households on means tested benefits, including Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Tax Credits, will receive a payment of £650 this year.

This will be made automatically in two instalments, one in summer and another in the autumn, and is in addition to the £400 discount on energy bills.

iving Energy Assistance

- **Disability Cost of Living Payment**

From 20th September, 6 million people who are paid certain disability benefits will receive an automatic one-off £150 payment. The payment will help disabled people with the rising Cost of Living acknowledging the higher disability-related costs they often face, such as care and mobility needs.

This is in addition to the £650 Cost of Living Payment for disabled people who also receive means tested benefits.

- **Pensioner Cost of Living Payment**

In the winter months pensioners can get between £100 and £300 to help pay heating bills.

This winter, they will also receive an extra one-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living

Payment, which will be paid as an automatic top-up to the Winter Fuel Payment.

- **Cold weather payments**

£25 extra a week if you're getting certain benefits and is available during the winter when the temperature is zero or below for more than seven days.

- **Warm Home Discount**

This autumn nearly three million low-income households are eligible for a £150 rebate on their winter electricity bills.

Check with your energy supplier to see if you are eligible.

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/finding-your-energy-supplier-or-network-operator>

You can get free energy advice and support...

You can obtain free impartial advice on energy bills and usage and help with billing issues via Citizens Advice Bureau's Energy Advice Service.

Should you require any assistance with this please contact the office on **01698 687222** and we can pass your details onto an Advisor who will assist you.

Through the AFTAR partnership, we have secured access to a number of energy efficiency measures (including energy efficient bulbs and radiator reflectors). Please contact us if you would like any of these - they will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

citizens advice bureau

90 Brandon Parade East
Motherwell
ML1 1LY

CAB provides a free, confidential and impartial service to help advise you about your energy costs

Contact Motherwell and Wishaw Bureau's energy adviser using this number:
07741661976

Come along to our FREE computer learning sessions

You can get help with any computer or device learning, assistance with CV's and Job Centre commitments!

Forgewood Community Centre:

Wednesdays 9 -11am

South Wishaw Parish Church IT Suite:

Thursdays 1 - 4pm



FREE Computer Learning Sessions

