

Energy saving

Ref	Item
1.	<p>Saving on energy bills is a hot topic at the moment and will certainly continue to be so for some time to come. There are many steps we can take to ensure we can be comfortable at home, despite turning down the thermostat.</p> <p>In cold weather keep yourself well-insulated by wearing many layers including leggings, long johns or tights under trousers. Scarves can help keep necks warm. If sitting for a long period put a hot water bottle on your lap. Insulate your house by using heavier curtains and draught excluders under doors.</p> <p>The following link https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy/ spells out many ways to save money and help fight climate change by cutting electricity use. Examples of listed methods include using LED lights, having water at 30 degrees instead of 40 degrees for washing machines, avoiding tumble dryers in favour of hanging washing on clothes racks or on washing lines outside, taking a 4-minute shower instead of a bath. See the above link for more useful and doable suggestions.</p>
2.	Use a green energy tariff (GEUK [previously Green Energy UK], Ecotricity and Good Energy are all good)
3.	Replace your halogen and our bulbs with low energy LED lightbulbs
4.	Always buy the most energy efficient appliances (especially fridges & freezers) which are cheaper in the long run.
5.	Try to always turn all appliances off at the wall. Even when on standby, many will still be using 2-5 watts 24/7.
6.	<p>Install solar thermal panels to heat water (any side but north-facing). If you shower rather than bathe, panels may provide most of your hot water for at least half of the year. <i>Note: current regulations for government grants for heat pumps say they cannot be used with solar thermal.</i> There are now hybrid panels which both convert sun into electricity (photo-voltaic) and heat water (solar thermal).</p> <p>With relative frugal usage, panel generation may (over a year) equal your use. Rather regrettably, probably most of the generation will go to the national grid-- your usage may be fairly even over the year, but generation is much higher around June and much lower around January.</p>
7.	Once your house is very well insulated, find out if you can replace gas boiler with heat pump if your house is suitable (air source more affordable but ground source is more efficient).