



ENERGY SAVERS TIPS



Here are a few tips to help you save some energy and money!!

- **Annual Boiler Service:** To make savings of up to 20% and to ensure your system is safe and free from leaks.
- **Insulate Your Building Fabric:** The simplest and quickest way to reduce your energy costs (25%) and increase your home comfort.
- **Eco Driving:** Avoid aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration & breaking). Driving sensibly can lower your fuel mileage by up to 33% on motorways and by about 5% in towns.



SOLID FUEL HEATING



It's that time of year for lighting fires to make your home cosy for the winter! Here are some things to consider with a stove or open fire:

- Buy a suitable stove and have it installed by a qualified installer / plumber. Regular servicing to keep your stove efficient and in good working order.
- Clean the chimney / flue at least once a year and before the heating season begins.
- Make sure that there is an adequate air supply/open vent at all times in rooms where a solid fuel heating system is being used.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide alarm in the room where you burn fuel.
- Burn the appropriate fuel for your stove (not plastics, etc). Wood burning stoves may require modifications if you wish to burn smokeless coal, so as not to damage the stove or the environment.
- Remember that only smokeless fuel is permitted in certain areas.



COST* OF DOMESTIC FUEL FOR THIS WINTER



Fuel	Form	Unit of Supply	Average Price / Unit (€)	cent/kWh
Peat	-Briquettes, Baled	Bale	4.60	6.87
Coal	-Smokeless Coal	Kg	0.48	5.44
Oil	- Gas Oil	Litre	0.69	6.78
	-Kerosene	Litre	0.59	5.80
L.P.G.	-Bulk L.P.G.	Litre	0.63	8.89
	-Bottled Butane	11.35 kg Cylinder	29.88	19.19
	-Bottled Propane	34 kg Cyl	79.50	16.88
Natural Gas	-Band D1: <5,556 per annum (p.a.)	kWh	0.069	6.90
	-Band D2:>5,556 <55,556 p.a.	kWh	0.057	5.70
	-Band D3:>=55,556 p.a.	kWh	0.055	5.50
Electricity	-Band DC:>=2,500 <5,000 kWh p.a.	kWh	0.21	21.00
	-Band DD:>=5,000 <15,000 kWh p.a.	kWh	0.19	19.00
	-Night Rate (If have a night saver meter)	kWh	0.10	10.02
	-Prepaid :>=2,500 <5,000 kWh p.a	kWh	0.25	25.00
Wood	-Split Log	Kg	0.38	9.13
	-Wood Briquettes	Kg	0.37	7.77
	-Pellets Bagged	Kg	0.35	7.21
	-Wood Chip	Kg	0.15	3.85

* Cost shown includes standing charges, duties and vat.



MANAGE YOUR ELECTRICITY USAGE



It is a good idea to get into the habit of checking your own meters. You will need:

1. Key for the electricity meter cupboard
2. Note pad and pen (a camera phone can be handy here if you have one)



Rule your notepad with the following columns or create a spreadsheet:

Date	Reading	Use	Comment
(Monday)dd/mm/yy	A		Start
(Friday) dd/mm/yy	B	= B minus A	Quiet week
(Monday)dd/mm/yy	C	= C minus B	Full house for the weekend

We suggest that you take your readings:

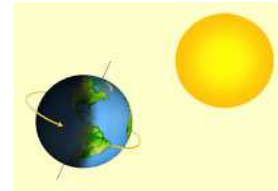
- Monday Morning (say 9:00 am)
- Friday Evening (say 5:00 pm)



Try to check at the same time each day

This will tell you how many units {kWh} you used:

1. during the **week days** (B - A)
2. at the **weekend** (C - B)
3. over the **full week** (week days + week end) (C - A)



Making a quick note will help you to check if usage is high or low; e.g. "Quiet week" or "Everybody home for the Bank Holiday week-end".

It is also useful to make a note at the end of one day and the beginning of the following day to see **how much electricity you used overnight**. Did you expect to be using electricity at night? Should you have a night saver meter?

Do this for a couple of months and you will be amazed how much you learn about your energy use.

Consider **switching** electricity provider to get a better rate. See October'15 newsletter at www.lcea.ie

Wireless Electricity Monitors

If this all seems like too much math, it is possible to get a wireless electricity monitor that you may keep in your kitchen / sitting room which will do this work for you. These monitors are available from a variety of electrical / electronic outlets. They cost between €50 - €100 and if you can afford one, they are an excellent way to help manage your energy use. Electricity companies also offer free electricity monitors occasionally when they are running promotions to attract new customers and retain existing customers. If you are not confident about installing one, always ask an electrician!