



ENERGY SAVERS TIPS



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

- **Heat Conservation:** Much of the heat loss from a house occurs through the windows, particularly if they are single glazed. So keep your curtains closed at night, even in empty rooms and also ensure that the curtains don't hang over the radiators as that will just funnel all your heat out the window.
- **Healthy travelling:** Over half of the trips we make are less than 5 kilometers (round trip), easily within the range of cycling and walking. A healthy heart can also mean a healthier bank balance!

ENERGY-EFFICIENT GARDENING



Many households have a range of lawn and garden equipment, power tools and machinery, a barbeque; not to mention ponds and fountains. **Without some planning, outdoor equipment could significantly add to your home energy use and costs**- including more maintenance time, and increased water use and waste created by your household.

Try to choose the right equipment for your gardening needs; e.g. push or electric mowers for smaller gardens versus petrol mowers for large lawns.

It's not only about having the right product—**how you use and care** for your equipment can also make a difference to your overall energy consumption. Pre-purchase research and reviewing your garden's design help you plan and manage your outdoor areas by reducing waste, saving you water, energy and money.

Green Gardening Products:



- ❖ **Solar Fountain:** From €195.00 (Approx.)
- Consider a solar-powered pump. Submersible and suitable for small water features, solar pumps don't require an outdoor electricity source and have no operating costs, making them helpful for the environment and your wallet.



- ❖ **Water-saving Hose Nozzle** €9.95

COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS



Last December, world leaders gathered in Paris at **COP21**, the United Nations Climate Change Summit; more than 100 Irish community groups, co-operatives, energy agencies and non-government organisations signed the **Community Energy Proclamation**. The proclamation strives to promote Ireland as a nation of "energy citizens" who will plan, generate and distribute energy for the benefit of their communities.

"Imagine a community putting its hands up and deciding to build a wind farm," its organisers said. "Imagine all the schools in a town running on clean, free solar electricity". Encouraging communities to transition to clean energy through projects like these is the best way to reach Ireland's renewable energy potential (*The Irish Times*, Jan. 30, 2016).

This is also the Government's vision and the *Minister for Energy and Natural Resources*, Alex White, published a **White Paper; Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030** the week after the signing of the energy proclamation. Our **Government's goal is to reduce emissions by 80% to 95% by 2050**, ending the subsidising of fossil fuels. Community energy and commercial energy will both be necessary to achieve Government objectives.

The Government's **Better Energy Communities** programme, administered by SEAI, has already supported **260 community energy retrofit projects over the last four years**. As a result over 12,000 homes and community buildings have received energy upgrades, supporting up to 3,500 jobs over the period. **Respond Housing** in Ennis coordinated energy upgrades in 54 homes and four community facilities, involving attic and wall insulation, replacement windows and renewable heat pumps.

Making The Switch Easy



Switching Tips



Gather the following information to get the best quote for you from a **Price Comparison** website:

- Take a **meter reading!** The more up-to-date your meter reading, the more accurate your savings estimate will be.
- Check **how much you pay each year!** By knowing how much you're currently paying yearly, a comparison website like **Switcher** or **Bonkers** will be able to give you an exact savings quote.
- Review your **payment method!** Some plans offer discounts for direct debit payments...how you pay your bill can affect your savings.

Useful Links:

- ◆ <http://www.bonkers.ie/compare-gas-electricity-prices/electricity>
- ◆ <https://switcher.ie/gas-electricity>
- ◆ <http://www.uchoose.ie/compare-electricity>
- ◆ <http://www.moneyguideireland.com/electricity-and-gas-cheapest-combined-prices.html>
- ◆ <http://www.consumerhelp.ie/electricity-gas>



The One Big Switch Drive



Over 97,000 electricity and gas consumers have signed up to market-beating group offers through the latest **One Big Energy Switch** drive. This campaign strives to create competitive energy rates for Irish consumers by using people power to boost competition in the Irish energy market.



Why Join?

- These **Group Discounts** are only available to **One Big Energy Switch** members - The One Big Switch team negotiates on the consumer's behalf and source discounted offers. **Get €337* off your energy bills at OneBigSwitch.ie !**
- It's **Free and Easy** to join.
- It's **Obligation Free**. You can take up the offers or use them to shop around.

Available Deals

- One **Electricity-only offer** that is now available gives a **12% saving** in year one, and **€140 Cashback** off any bill.
- A **Dual-Fuel offer*** is also available and could cut your bill by **€337**, with year one discounts of **14% on electricity** and **8% on gas**, plus **€140 Cashback**.

⇒ You can register with OneBigSwitch.ie to consider the offers, and if one suits you; switch before they **expire at midnight on May 6**. You can also ask your existing supplier to match the offer.

ALL YOU NEED TO JOIN	Your Supply Address	Your Gas GPRN & Your Electricity MPRN	Your Gas & Electricity Meter Readings	Your Personal Details	Your Bank Details
→	The address of the property you would like to switch. 	 These are the reference numbers of your electricity & gas supply. You can find them on your most recent bills.	This is your property's gas and electricity usage. 	Details such as your contact details and date of birth. 	Your bank account details if you want to switch.
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