

Money Management – Budgeting Utilities

Water – the water supplier for the Telford and Wrekin area is Severn Trent Water, <https://www.stwater.co.uk/>, phone: 0345 7500 500.

There are several ways to reduce your water bill:

- a. Apply to have a water meter fitted – you will be billed only for the water used. The sewage costs are also based on the amount of water you use. However, the bill may increase if your usage is high or if there are leaking pipes/taps/lavatory tanks. If you request to fit a water meter, you will have 2 years to change your mind and have it removed. If you move into a property with a water meter fitted, you will not be able to have it removed. All houses build since 1990 have water meters fitted as standard.
- b. Apply for Watersure scheme if you are eligible. Check the details here: <https://www.stwater.co.uk/my-account/help-with-account/watersure-faqs/>
- c. If you struggle with your bill, consider applying for the Big Difference Scheme – see <https://www.stwater.co.uk/my-account/help-when-you-need-it/help-with-paying-your-bill/big-difference-scheme/>

Gas & Electricity – there are around 60 different suppliers currently operating in the UK.

If you are not sure who your supplier is, you can find out who your electricity supplier is by checking with Western Power Distribution at <https://supplier.westernpower.co.uk/> and who your gas supplier on <https://www.findmysupplier.energy/webapp/index.html>.

You can reduce your energy bills in several ways:

- By using the cheapest payment method (Direct Debit) and have an online account.
- By regularly switching your tariffs, especially at the end of your fixed tariffs. Use [Ofgem-approved](#) price comparison sites.
- By applying for [Warm Home Discount](#), if you are eligible for it.
- By reducing your usage of gas and electricity. Your energy supplier can provide you with more information about energy saving tips.
- By installing energy efficient appliances and light bulbs.
- By insulating your property and avoiding draughts.
- By regularly serving your boiler/having a high efficiency boiler and by using the controls correctly.
- By installing renewable energy power sources, such as solar power electric/water heating panels, air source/ground source pumps.

Links:

Citizens Advice energy comparison site: <https://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Suppliers customer service performance ratings assessed by Citizens Advice:
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/how-citizens-advice-works/citizens-advice-consumer-work/supplier-performance/energy-supplier-performance/compare-domestic-energy-suppliers-customer-service/>

Simple Energy Advice – a government endorsed website
<https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/> which includes a free helpline 0800 444202.

Martin Lewis's Money Saving Expert website energy section:
<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/energy/>