



For immediate release: Tuesday 8th May, 2012

CONSUMERS WARNED AS PRICE OF CHEAP ENERGY STARTS TO CREEP UP

Consumers are being urged to snap up a competitive energy plan while they can, as a second supplier has moved to push its online prices upwards. While standard prices remain steady at £1,252 a year, online prices have started to creep upwards, hitting £1,091 a year today^[1].

The latest move comes today with ScottishPower pulling its Online Fixed Price Energy July 2013, a fixed price online plan costing £1,055 a year, and replacing it with Online Fixed Price Energy August 2013, which will cost £1,086 a year on average ^[1] - an increase of £31 a year. However, even at an average of £1,091 a year, online plans still offer great value coming in at £161 a year cheaper than the average standard plan^[1].

Emma Bush, energy expert at uSwitch.com, says: “This move follows Ovo Energy’s recent price hike so will no doubt leave consumers feeling a bit jittery over where household energy prices are heading. The fact is that small suppliers and the competitive online plans offered by the big six are usually where you first see signs of trouble ahead.

“Online plans are always competitive, but because they are so keenly priced they are also the first to reflect any volatility in the market, which is why we have started to see online prices creeping up. The good news though is that online plans still offer a £161 saving on standard prices^[1]. But what it does mean is that now is the right time to be snapping up one of these deals as we could see online prices climbing higher.

“The biggest question on everyone’s lips is what this upward trend in the online market means for general household energy prices. The truth is that it is too soon to say – while wholesale prices have increased we don’t yet know whether we are looking at a short-term blip or an ongoing trend. SSE has already promised not to increase its prices before October this year, but the fact is that suppliers would need to see a consistent trend in substantially higher wholesale prices before they could justify a general price hike.”

Energy 'best buys'^[1]:

Supplier	Plan Name	Price
First Utility	iSave Dual Fuel V10	£1,027
EDF Energy	Blue +Price Promise September 2013	£1,054
Sainsbury's Energy	Online Price Freeze June 2013 (MDD)	£1,058
npower	Bill Saver August 2013	£1,061
ScottishPower	Online Fixed Price Energy August 2013	£1,086
E.ON	SaveOnline 12	£1,113
Ovo Energy	New Energy Fixed	£1,140
SSE	Fixed Discount April 2014 (with paperless billing)	£1,140
British Gas	Online Energy	£1,142
	Average	£1,091

Source: uSwitch.com

For more information visit www.uSwitch.com or call 0800 093 06 07

-Ends-

For more information please contact:

Jo Ganly, uSwitch.com on 020 7802 2915 or JoGanly@uswitch.com

Adam Harwood, Lansons Communications on 0207 566 9725 or adamh@lansons.com

Notes for editors:

1. Based on a medium user consuming 3,300kWh electricity and 16,500kWh gas with bill sizes averaged across all regions. Standard plan customer paying on receipt of bill. Online customer paying by monthly direct debit. Ovo Energy New Energy Fixed is not available in the Scottish-Hydro region.

About us

uSwitch.com is a free, impartial, online and telephone-based comparison and switching service, helping consumers compare prices on gas, electricity, water, heating cover, home telephone, broadband, digital television, mobile phones and personal finance products including mortgages, credit cards, current accounts and insurance. In 2010 uSwitch.com celebrated ten years of saving customers money.

uSwitch.com is the first comparison website to achieve the Plain English Campaign's Internet Crystal Mark, which is recognised as a standard that a website has clear language, is accessible and easy to use, and has been tested on a sample of its users.

uSwitch.com is dedicated to helping consumers save money whether they have internet access or not. It offers a dedicated call centre, manned by uSwitch customer service representatives, as well as a freepost 'Send us your bill' service, whereby customers can post their latest energy bills with their telephone number to FREEPOST USWITCH, to get a free call back from a dedicated customer services representative. The service is also available via fax, email and post. Consumers should fax 0203 214 8417, email CustomerServices@uswitch.com or write to Customer Services, uSwitch.com, Centro 3, 19 Mandela Street, London, NW1 0DU with their postcode and usage details.

uSwitch.com is owned by Forward Internet Group Limited, a privately funded collection of internet-based businesses focused on consumer engagement and innovation.