

## Worried about gas and/or electricity bills?

### For quick tips to save energy

#### Energy Saving Trust

Visit: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/hub/quick-tips-to-save-energy/>

### Discounts and Grants

#### Warm Home Discount scheme

**£140 discount for low-income households**

To apply visit: <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>

#### Local Discretionary Social Fund

For help in an emergency, apply online:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/benefits/help-and-support/get-emergency-help-food-energy-bills-and-other-essentials>

OR call **01273 293117** (option 1) / email [LDSF@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:LDSF@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

#### Cold Weather Payment

For people receiving benefits (paid automatically during severe weather spells)

#### Winter Fuel Payment

For people born before 1955

**Some energy suppliers offer discounts or grants**

**\*see list below and check your energy supplier's website or helpline for current offers.**

## Do you have questions or need extra help?

#### Help for Brighton & Hove residents with winter energy bills - BHESCo

Advice is available in English and Arabic عربي

<https://bhesco.co.uk/fuel-poverty-energy-bills-brighton-hove>

#### LEAP | The Energy and Money Saving Service | Free Advice (applyforleap.org.uk)

<https://applyforleap.org.uk/>

#### Save energy and water (brighton-hove.gov.uk)

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/topic/save-energy-and-water>

#### **Priority Service Register (PSR)**

#### Getting extra help with the Priority Services Register | Ofgem

Visit: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/getting-extra-help-priority-services-register>

# How to avoid debt – tips

- Contact your energy supplier if you are struggling to pay bills, ask about affordable payment plans.
- Speak to an adviser \*see free services above including BHESCo / LEAP
- Improve your property's energy efficiency
- Find the best energy tariff
- Choose the right payment method
- Maximise your income
- Apply for funding or a grant

## Information to have to hand, if possible, when speaking to your energy supplier or money adviser:

- Statements (bills) and any letters from the supplier
- Meter readings
- Meter serial number (found on meter and/or bills)
- Proof of income, benefits letters, pay slips
- Bank statements
- Details of outgoings / debts
- Letter from GP showing health issues, if applicable
- Details of any difficulties or changes in circumstance (e.g. a recent bereavement, looking after children, elderly relatives, relationship breakdown ...)

## Useful Links

### [Grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills - Citizens Advice](#)

Visit: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills/>

### [Save money on your gas and electricity - Citizens Advice](#)

Visit: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-a-better-energy-deal/save-money-on-your-gas-and-electricity/>

### [Energy advice for your home - Energy Saving Trust](#)

Visit: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home/>

## Need some extra help? Contact the Family Information Service!

We can link families to local services and provide a wide range of information and advice including:

Financial help and benefits  
Getting into work and training

Funding for essential items  
Childcare and childcare funding

Email: [familyinfo@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:familyinfo@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Call: 01273 293545

The information in the factsheet was up to date at October 2021 to the best of our knowledge. For the most accurate and up to date information about the services listed, we advise that you should visit their websites.

## Section 14

### Trusts and Grants

A number of the energy suppliers offer a range of grants for their most vulnerable customers (subject to meeting certain criteria). At the time of writing, the following suppliers are offering help:

**British Gas (British Gas Energy Trust)**  
Payments for household bills/ energy arrears.



**EDF Energy (EDF Energy Customer Support Fund)**  
Payments for household bills/ energy arrears or essential appliances.



**E.ON (Energy Fund)**  
Will provide payments for household bills/ energy arrears, essential appliances and repairs to or replacement boilers.



**SSE (Priority Assistance Fund)**  
This fund is not open all year round, check their website.



**Scottish Power (Hardship Fund)**  
Provides payments towards energy arrears via Social Enterprise Direct.



**OVO (Energy Fund)**  
Payments for energy arrears.



**Let's Talk (Energy Fund)**  
Links to a wide range of grants and benefits.



**Charis Grants**  
Charis Grants exists to facilitate charitable and corporate giving by designing, developing and managing a range of services in support of vulnerable members of society.



Website: [www.charisgrants.com](http://www.charisgrants.com)