

Simple Energy Saving Tips



Be under no illusion, energy is becoming more expensive even if you are using less. The industry is evolving and whilst the environment adapts you will need to change the way your business consumes electricity and gas. The amount of change can be seen on the graph below, which shows that both electricity and gas prices have more than doubled in 10 years (2004—2014). This is a cause for concern as a continuing trend would suggest that prices will increase further over time.

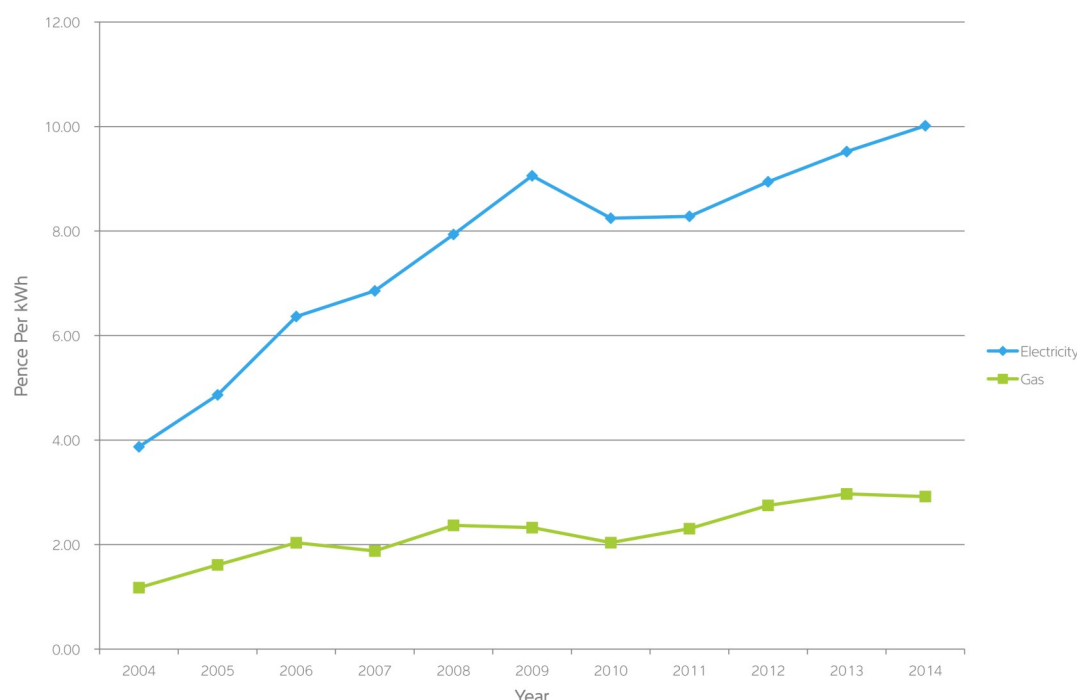


Figure 1. Average Non-Domestic Electricity and Gas Price 2004 - 2014 (Source: Gov.uk)

It stands to reason that as we continue our consumption of fossil fuels, the cost of energy will always rise. This could mean that trying to find the cheapest deal may be possible, but with constantly increasing prices are you really making a saving?

Here are our five tips on how you can potentially achieve a saving:

1 – Renewable Energy – Even though technology was stated as part of the problem it can be part of the solution as well. Technology is developing at a substantial rate which it is making all our products cheaper, including renewable energy for domestic and business use. Allowing even small companies to harness the power of the sun and/or wind to power part of their house/business. They may look costly at around £7,500, but they are a lot cheaper than when they were first produced. These will only keep decreasing in price which will ensure that there could be an abundance of renewable energy sources. One idea that could be a possible future method to reduce our energy demand is [Solar Roadways](#). It has so far raised £2.2 million from a crowd funding site. Therefore, this could be the future of our roadways instead of tarmac. In theory it would lower your bills because of the increased input to the grid from a renewable source. There are renewable contracts as well from suppliers like Good Energy and Smartest Energy, which can potentially be lower than your standard contract.

2 – Energy Efficiency Compliance – The UK and EU Government has put in place strict carbon targets for the UK and EU to reach by 2020 known as the [20-20-20 target](#). The target consists of:

- Reducing green gas emissions from 1990 levels by 20%
- Energy produced from renewable to be 20%
- Increase energy efficiency throughout the EU by 20%

The [ESOS Assessment](#) is another initiative introduced by Government which is looking at all large organisations and their energy efficiency. This will help everyone reduce their consumption and become more efficient. Consequently, it could lower your bills due to the nature of businesses being subjected to audits and energy saving measures.

3 – Technology – Technology has always developed at an astonishing rate, providing us with all the convenience we desire and continues to open our eyes to new methods and solutions. For instance, Elon Musk has introduced a [‘Powerwall’](#), which is a large wall mounted battery with a choice of 7kWh or 10kWh (Kilo Watt Hour), depending on your needs. This looks at storing renewable energy within a household and will allow you to reduce costs by stockpiling energy to use at a later date.

4 – Monitoring Energy Use – This is probably one of the most common forms of reducing your energy but it has been made easier. For domestic use there is the possibility of having smart meters which will let you know every single detail. It will allow you to see what appliances use the most and how much you have used. Business consultants/brokers can see where and when you are consuming the most and can advise you accordingly. They can inform you of any irregularities and suggest ways of proactively reducing your bills by understanding your home and business.

5 – Budgeting/ Plan for the Future – It is important to think and plan for the future especially for any business. Budgeting will prevent any unwanted expenditure along with tracking to identify patterns and trends. It is worthwhile for businesses to benchmark/compare prices with other suppliers/brokers/consultants to ensure that they are receiving the best price. You will then want to track your energy usage, this could identify any possible consumption trends which can be used to predict future usage. Tracking may determine any potential wasted energy from machinery or equipment which is currently being used and perhaps lead to the acquisition of more energy efficient machinery/equipment. Lastly, it is always important and beneficial to keep up with current affairs/news in the energy industry. The market is volatile which can change hourly, so prices are unpredictable.