

# Green Energy & Energy Savings



# Who are Citizens Advice

- We've helped people solve problems for 80 years
- Network of over 270 independent local CA charities
- Offers advice from over 2,550 locations across England & Wales
- No one else sees so many people with so many different problems
- We use our data and evidence to highlight underlying problems and show companies and Government how to make things better
- Ask CAB - 1942 Ministry of Information film  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PjDgvc6TVU>



# Who are Citizens Advice?

**12 months**

St Albans

Nationally

Number of Clients helped

9k

Number of Client interactions

251m

Benefits

31%

29%

Housing

13%

10%

Debt

11%

15%

Employment

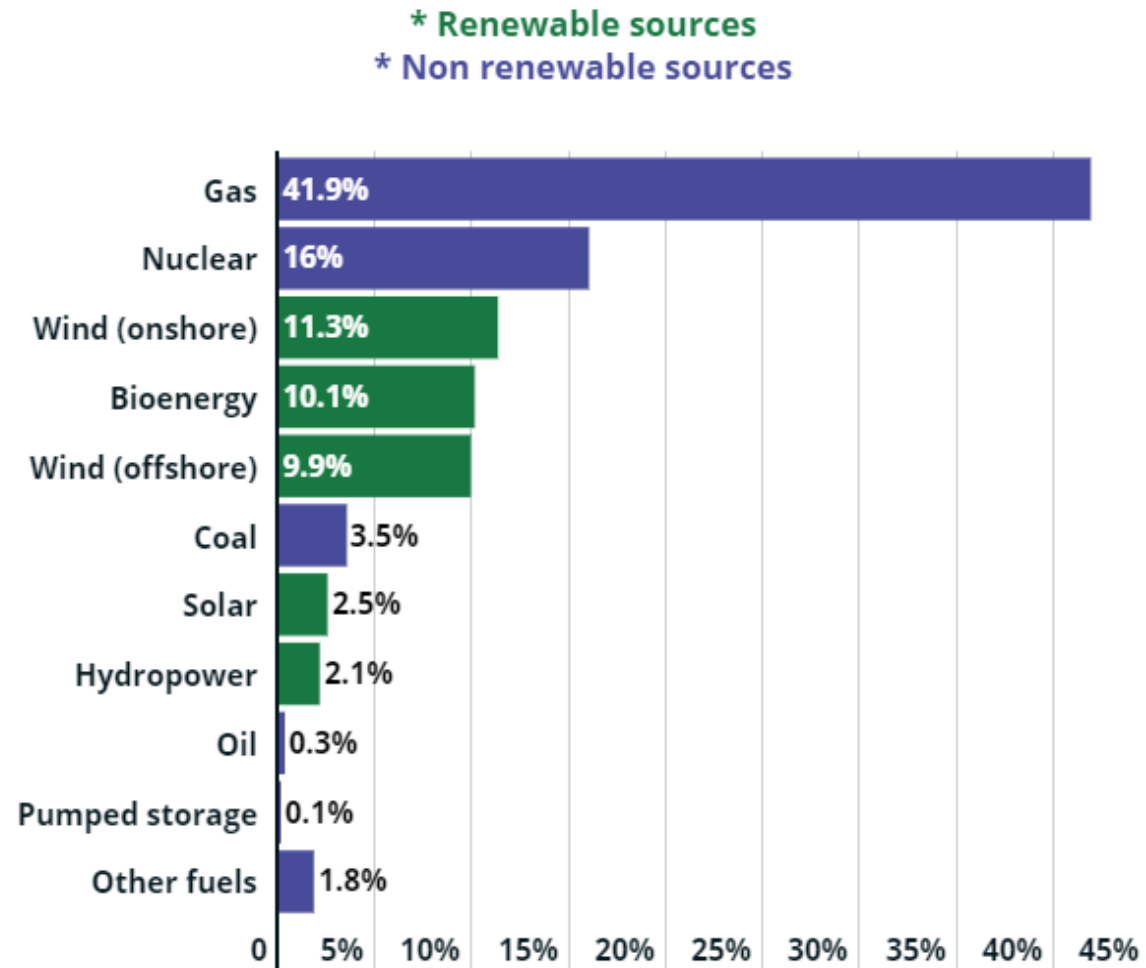
10%

8%

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# How your electricity is generated



Fuel used in UK electricity generation, Jan-Mar 2019.  
Source: BEIS Energy Trends.

From Which? article



# How green is your 'green' energy tariff?



- About 40% of the UK's CO2 emissions are created in the home
- Green suppliers pledge one of the following
  - Own green supplies
  - pledge to use 100% of the income from their customers to invest renewable energy
  - deal directly with an existing windfarm or solar array
  - back by a renewable energy guarantee of origin certificates
- Uswitch are the first comparison site to set standards for green tariffs



# Learn More



## Google:

- **Which? How green is your energy tariff?**
- **Guardian How green is your 'green' energy tariff?**
- **Ask CAB - 1942 Ministry of Information film**



# Check

Shopping around can reduce your energy costs

You have a choice in where you buy your energy.

You may save money and go green by:

- moving to a cheaper/green deal/tariff with your current supplier
- switching to a new green supplier
- Changing your payment method, saves money not the world





# Check

Before you decide to switch

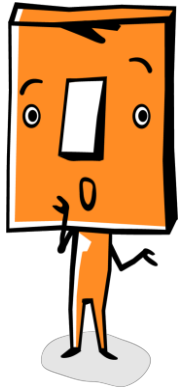


You should start by:

- checking which type of meter you are on
- finding out if your contract with your supplier has an 'exit fee' for leaving early
- See what tariffs are offered by your current supplier

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# Switch

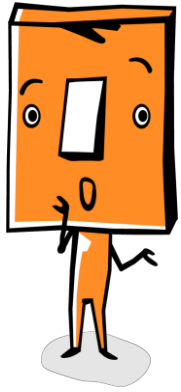
## Finding the best deal



Compare tariffs from different suppliers

- Use an Ofgem accredited price comparison website
- Some sites are:
  - <https://www.uswitch.com>
  - <https://www.greenenergyswitch.co.uk/switch-energy-tariff/>
  - <https://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/>
- Call other energy suppliers
- LOOK FOR GREEN RATES





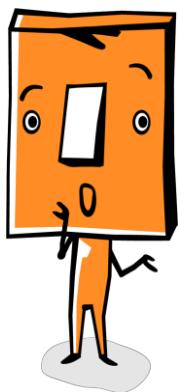
# Switch

## Finding the best deal



You'll need:

- the name of your supplier and current tariffs
- how much energy you used in the past year
- how you currently pay for your energy
- your postcode



# Switch

## How to switch tariff

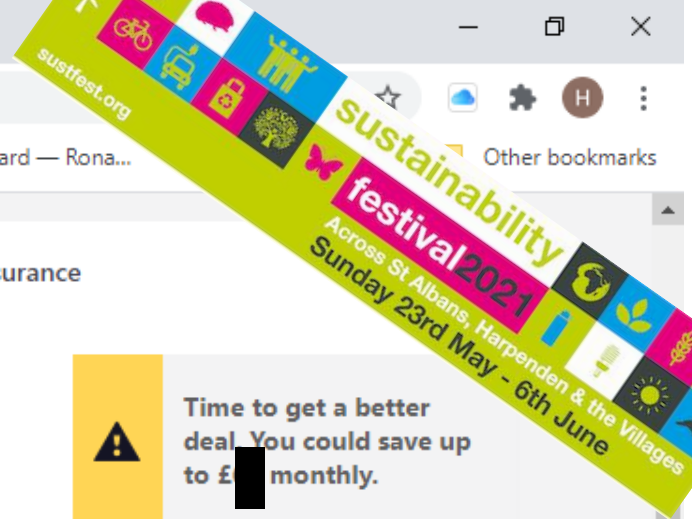
To change tariff, contact the supplier to arrange the switch. This can be done:

- through a price comparison website
- by getting in touch with the supplier directly

If this is to a new supplier:

- they will inform your existing supplier
- You need to take a meter reading on the day of the switch
- Give this reading to your new supplier





**Car insurance**

zurich

Cost: [redacted] /mo | Policy ended: **15 Sep 2020**

[See deals](#) | [Bill details >](#)

**Home insurance**

Zurick

Cost: £[redacted] /mo | Policy ended: **15 Sep 2020**

[See deals](#) | [Bill details >](#)

**Home insurance**

Homeserve

Cost: [redacted] /mo | Policy ended: **23 Apr 2020**

[See deals](#) | [Bill details >](#)

**Time to get a better deal. You could save up to £[redacted] monthly.**

**Phone**

EE

Cost: [redacted] mo | Contract ended: **4 Feb 2021**

[See deals](#) | [Bill details >](#)

**Broadband**

plusnet

Cost: [redacted] /mo | Contract end: **20 Aug 2021**

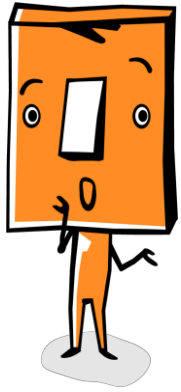
[See deals](#) | [Bill details >](#)

**Phone**

3

Cost: [redacted] /mo | Contract ended: **17 Oct 2020**

[See deals](#) | [Bill details >](#)



# Switch

## What if I'm in debt to my supplier?



### Prepayment meter:

- Owe less than £500 for each fuel? You can still switch
- Your debt will transfer with you

### Non prepayment meter:

- Owe the money for 28 days or less? You can switch.

Some grants are available to write off energy debt





# Save

## Reduce Consumption

- Only fill kettle with amount needed
- Block drafts
- Draw curtains
- Turn off lights in unused rooms
- Turning down/off thermostat at night when no one in
- Unplug/turn off chargers when not in use
- Electric heaters are one of the most expensive forms of heating
- Installing thermostatic radiator valves
- keep doors closed for rooms that you don't heat
- Clingfilm on windows





# Save

## Energy Efficiency Be green & Save Money



**St Albans Warmer Homes** offer help if you're on benefits or have a low income

Call 01422 880100 or email [projects@yesenergysolutions.co.uk](mailto:projects@yesenergysolutions.co.uk)

Eligible residents may be able to receive funding towards the install of:

- Cavity wall insulation
- Loft insulation
- Underfloor insulation
- External wall insulation
- A-rated boiler upgrades
- First-time central heating





# Save

## Energy Efficiency

**Green Homes Grant** ended 31 March 2021

No information about restarting







# Save

## Energy Efficiency Be green & Save Money



If you are over 60 and finding it hard to make ends meet, **St Albans Old People's Trust** can help with:

- Grants for gas and electricity bills
- Replacement washing machines, fridges and cookers
- Boiler servicing and annual repairs.

See <http://www.staopt.org/> for details





# Save

## Energy Efficiency Be green & Save Money



Borrow a **thermal imaging camera** from:  
Sustainable St Albans

See <https://sustainablestalbans.org/thermal-imaging/> for details.





# Save

## Warm Home Discount Scheme



**Warm Home Discount Scheme** offers £140 off your electricity bill if you're:

- Getting a means-tested benefit
- On a low income

Check with your supplier to see if they offer the Warm Home Discount.

Apply August – December, paid October to February

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# Save

## Water Discounts

- **Soakaways** – If rainwater does not go into sewer then entitled to discount
- **Affinity Water – Lift (Fresh Water)**
  - Household income less than £16385
  - Receiving benefits ESA, IS, JSA, HB, UC or PC
  - Water bills capped at £103.70
- **Thames Water WaterHelp (Sewerage)**
  - Same rules as Lift
  - 50% Discount

**CALL Affinity Advanced Care Team on 0345 3572406 for both**

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# And Finally

- 
- Do you have a friend, family member or neighbor who would benefit from saving money on their utility bill?
- Email [energy@castad.org.uk](mailto:energy@castad.org.uk) or phone 01727 811118 and ask for an energy appointment.

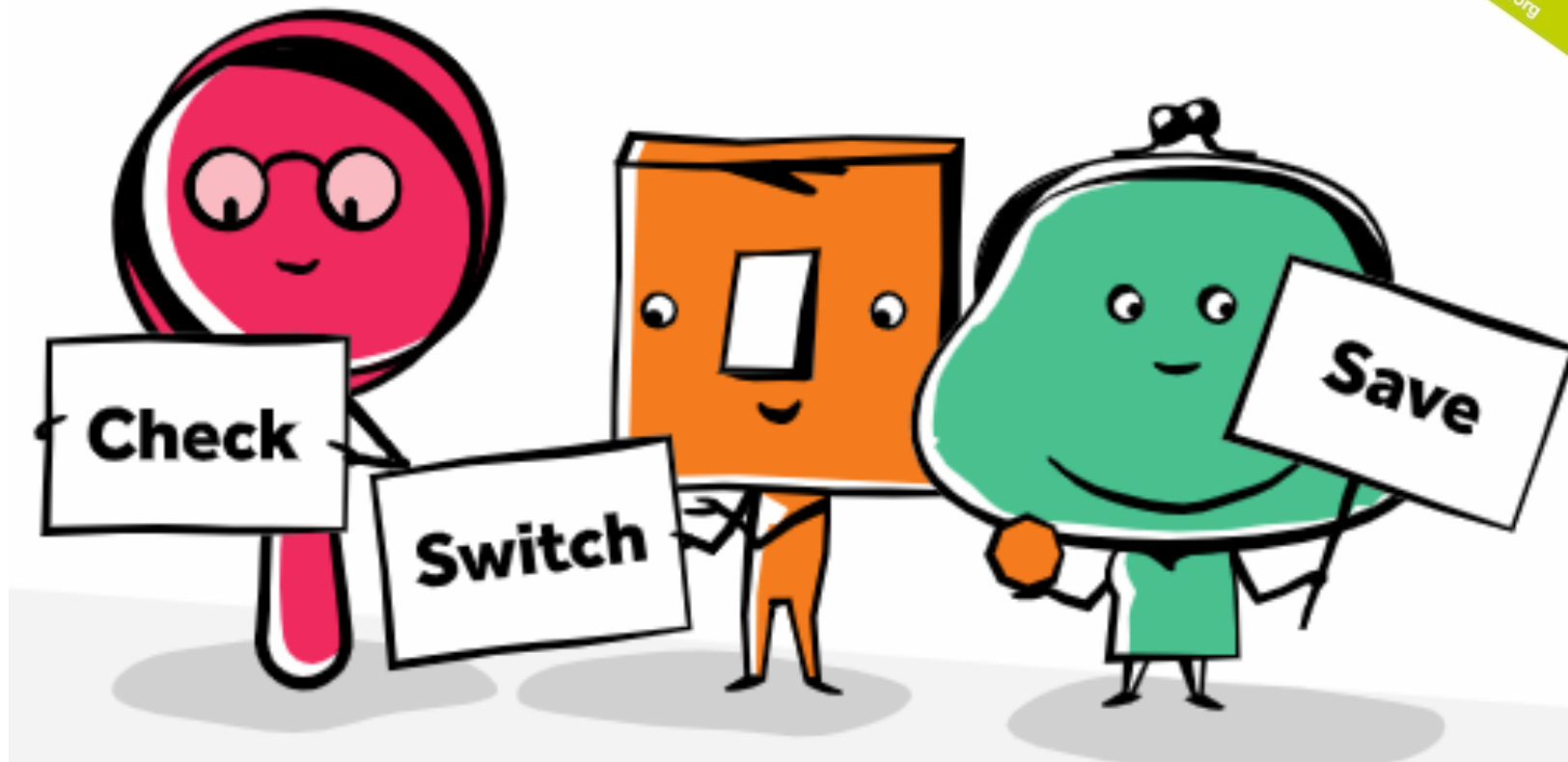


# Learn More

## Google:

- uSwitch
- Green Energy Switch
- St Albans Warmer Homes
- St Albans Old Peoples Trust
- Borrow a Thermal Imaging Camera, Sustainable St Albans
- Warm Home Discount Scheme
- Affinity Water - Lift/WaterHelp





**Thank you for your time**

