



The benefits of a smart meter for you and for Great Britain

**Smart
Meters**

Join the quiet
revolution



What is a smart meter?

Smart meters are the next generation of gas and electricity meters. They are being installed in homes across Great Britain at no extra cost, to replace traditional meters.



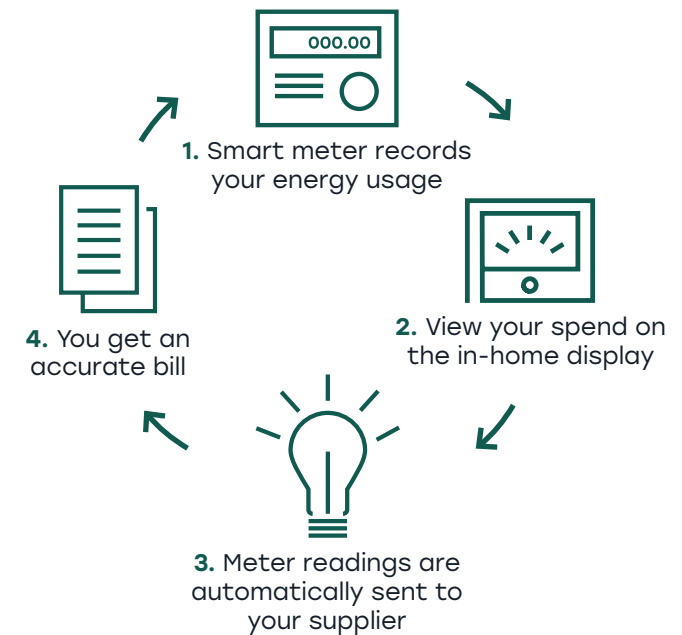
Both the in-home display and the smart meter operate without the need to be connected to the internet. Your name and address and bank details are not stored.

How does it work?

Unlike traditional meters, a smart meter sends your gas and electricity readings directly to your energy supplier so you don't have to – very handy!

Plus, you'll receive an accurate, not estimated, bill – meaning, you only pay for what you use.

The in-home display (IHD), which you'll receive with your smart meter, shows you how much energy you're using, as you use it:



How can a smart meter save me money?

A smart meter can help you with your household budgeting. The in-home display (IHD) shows you, in near-real time, the amount of energy you use in pounds and pence. This allows you to keep a closer eye on your energy spending habits.

Having a smart meter can also help you find ways to reduce energy waste around your home and save money. For example, you can save around £35 a year just by remembering to turn your appliances off standby mode*.

“ Being able to check it out for myself, know exactly what I’m using at any point any day, obviously the financial benefits if you can monitor where your money is going. It’s just control and information, isn’t it?”

Ann, Age UK Member

How else can a smart meter help me?

A smart meter will ensure your bills are accurate, taking the stress out of budgeting and putting you back in control.

Tariffs are what energy suppliers charge you for your gas and electricity. The information that smart meters provide can help you to work out if you are on the right tariff or if you should change your energy supplier. You can then change to them if you want to.

Smart meters could also help you to switch to a better energy deal, as you’ll have accurate energy usage information which can help you choose the supplier and tariff that suits you best.

What if I have a prepay meter?

No problem! With a smart prepay meter, it’s easier to see what remaining credit you’ve got left using your IHD, so you can avoid the lights turning off at the most inconvenient times. You can continue to top up your meter at a shop as well as the added benefit of being able to top up by phone and by text.

I rent my home. Can I still get a smart meter?

Yes, if you pay your electricity and/or gas bills and they’re addressed to you rather than your landlord you can get a smart meter. You don’t need your landlord’s permission to get a smart meter (although you should inform them). If you are not the bill payer, then you can ask your landlord to arrange a smart meter installation for you.

How can smart meters benefit Great Britain?

You may remember a few years ago that some changes happened to the way we all watch TV. Households in the United Kingdom moved from analogue television that relied on radio signal, and were upgraded and replaced with digital TV.

There is a similar rollout now happening in Great Britain with smart meters. The nation’s electricity needs are expected to double by 2050, this means we need to upgrade our energy system.

You can help Great Britain take a step in the right direction by installing a smart meter in your home. Smart meters are helping Britain save more energy, and helping you save on your bills too.



Is it a hassle to have one installed?

Your energy supplier can arrange for a smart meter to be installed at a time and date that suits you.

Here's a few important things you'll need to be aware of before your installation:



Agree a time and date with your supplier that you can be home for the installation. An installer will never turn up unexpectedly.



Make sure you know where your current meters are and take steps to ensure they're accessible for the installer.



The installer should present you with a valid identity card upon arrival, which you can ask to see if the installer does not present it upfront.



It takes around one hour for your electricity meter, and around one hour for your gas meter. Your energy supply will be cut off for a short period, but you'll need to be present for the installation. If you have a health condition reliant on energy supply rest assured this will be addressed during your appointment booking.



If you're having your gas meter installed, the installer will perform a visual safety check on your gas appliances.



Once fitted, your installer should show you how to use your in-home display and offer energy-saving advice.

So, what next?

Hopefully now, you have a better idea about what smart meters are, how they work and why they make good sense. So why not speak to a family member or friend about helping you with the next steps, or get in touch with your energy supplier about getting one installed. You can find your energy supplier details on your gas and electricity bill.

You could be enjoying the benefits of a smart meter very soon.

Please note:

Eligibility of smart meters may vary.

Consumer action is required to obtain cost savings and budgeting benefits of smart meters.



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