

## Advice for residents using domestic heating oil (kerosene)

- **Join an oil syndicate to get the best possible price**

Ask your neighbours/parish council to find a local scheme

Join the WRCC Energy Community Oil Syndicate visit [www.wrccenergy.org.uk](http://www.wrccenergy.org.uk) or call **01789 472619**.

- **Negotiate with suppliers**

Call multiple suppliers and negotiate to get the best price.

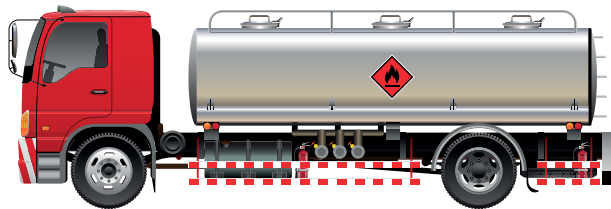
- **Manage your tank**

Allow plenty of time for your oil order to get the best price.

- **Consider a monthly payment scheme**

Many suppliers now offer a monthly payment scheme where you pay a fixed monthly price and the supplier will keep your tank topped up.

This may be more affordable in the short term, but suppliers charge a much higher price per litre for this service.



Visit [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/energy/switch-save](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/energy/switch-save) to see if you can save money through Switch and Save scheme bulk order scheme for Gas and Electricity

**With the underlying cost of energy, it is not possible to save large sums by switching suppliers at the moment. However, you can still take actions to reduce your energy usage and make savings on your energy bills. This can be over £350 per year\***

- ✓ Contact your supplier to have a Smart meter installed to monitor usage
- ✓ visit energy saving trust for the latest information on switching your energy supplier
- ✓ Cover draughts to stop the cold getting in
- ✓ Thick curtains can help keep the heat in
- ✓ Wear lots of thin layers to keep you warmer
- ✓ Plan events and activities to keep you moving
- ✓ Turn the thermostat down 1C, ideal temperature is between 18 to 21C
- ✓ Only boil the water you need
- ✓ Put lids on saucepans while cooking
- ✓ Have shorter showers and fewer baths
- ✓ Do at least one less machine wash a week, and wash at 30 degrees
- ✓ Turn the heating off even if you are popping to the shops
- ✓ Turn off appliances when not in use, instead of leaving on standby
- ✓ Turn off the lights
- ✓ Avoid using a tumble dryer
- ✓ Reduce your dishwasher use by one less a week
- ✓ Insulate your hot water cylinder

Visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/energy-at-home) for more tips and information on switching your energy supplier

\*According to the Energy Saving Trust based on a typical 3 bed gas heated property

SDC/2007/FEB22

# Energy Price **RISES**



## Help Advice Grants Support

With spiralling household energy costs and the price cap increase rising by £700 from April, many households in our district will be struggling.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council would like to signpost you to the government and local support packages available to households as well as professional organisations who are able to offer advice and support during these difficult times.

## Government Energy Bill Discount Scheme

All domestic electricity customers in Great Britain will receive "an upfront discount on their bills worth £200" this autumn.

The £200 will be recovered from bills in £40 instalments each year for five years, starting in the financial year 2023/2024. It is expected to be added to the standing charge on bills. We will provide more information as soon as it's available.

## Council Tax Rebate

The Government has asked all Councils to administer a scheme to help with rising fuel costs. This £150 non-repayable council tax rebate is to be paid to all households that are liable for council tax in bands A to D in England. The rebates will start to be issued by Stratford-on-Avon District Council between April and September 2022.

The quickest way to receive your payment is to sign up by direct debit to pay your Council Tax. Visit [www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk) for details

## Support from Stratford-on-Avon District Council

### Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Households on a low income including the self employed may be entitled to a reduction in their Council Tax.

To find out if you are eligible visit [www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk) for details

### Discretionary Housing Payments

This can be awarded in addition to a housing benefit award or a Universal Credit housing element, in unavoidable exceptional circumstances, eg. health issues, urgent debt. Visit [www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk) to find out more.

### Housing Benefit

Housing benefit was replaced by Universal Credit in 2018, however you may still get Housing Benefit if you are state pension age or living in temporary accommodation or accommodation where care and support is being provided.

Visit [www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk) to find out more.



## Other support

**Act On Energy** is a local charity providing free help to residents on all home energy efficiency matters.

tel. **0800 988 2881**

[www.actonenergy.org.uk](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk)

**Citizens Advice South Warwickshire** offer a range of advice and information including benefits, debt & housing advice.

tel. **0300 330 1183**

[www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk](http://www.casouthwarwickshire.org.uk)

Check you benefit entitlement visit [www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators) to maximise your income

**Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme** for vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help.

tel. **0800 408 1448** or **01926 359182**

Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm

Friday 9am-4.30pm

Contact **your energy supplier** as soon as you can if you are worried about paying your energy bills. Suppliers must work with you to agree on a payment plan you can afford under Ofgem rules. This includes reviewing a plan you have agreed before.

Contact **your energy supplier** to check to see if you are eligible for extra help with the Priority Services Register - a free support service to help people in vulnerable situations.