

Top 10 tips to save energy this Christmas



Christmas can be an expensive time of the year – don't let this be the case with your energy bills or the environment!

- 1. Make the switch.** You shop around for your Christmas presents; why not shop around for your energy? Many households could save £200 each year on a better energy tariff or with an alternative supplier.
- 2. Light it up.** Christmas lights could add £20 to your winter electricity bill (Good Energy, 2014). Switching conventional lights to LED lighting when decorating your tree or house could help reduce your energy consumption by 90%. Use timers on your lights to further save on running costs. Decorating the outside of your house? Invest in solar-powered lights that won't add to your electricity bills.
- 3. Recycle your wrapping.** Consider wrapping your presents in recycled brown paper and add natural raffia instead of plastic frills and bows to your gifts. After Christmas, recycle any wrapping paper you can – you may need to check with your local authority first to make sure this can be collected.
- 4. Creative cards.** Recycle your old Christmas cards - many supermarkets offer collection points and schools often collect too. You could also save your Christmas cards to cut up as tags for gifts next year or to create new cards - recycling paper and saving the manufacture of new cards.
- 5. Which tree?** Consider investing in a pot-grown Christmas tree this year. You can place it back outside after Christmas and reuse it the following year – effectively lasting longer, absorbing carbon dioxide and having a lower environmental impact. If you can't use a potted version, try to purchase one from a local, sustainable forest and recycle it after Christmas.
- 6. Clear the way.** Ensure radiators are not obstructed by decorations, Christmas trees or furniture as this can reduce the amount of heat radiated around the room.
- 7. Wrap up.** This is the perfect time of year to shop for warm, cosy socks and Christmas jumpers – by layering up you may be able to turn your room thermostat down. For every one degree, you could save up to £90 and 360kg of carbon dioxide a year (Energy Saving Trust).
- 8. Put a lid on it.** When cooking your veg, use the right-sized pan and ring and keep the lids on your pans to reduce heat loss. Use just enough water to cover your veg to prevent wasting water and make sure to keep any veg cuttings to compost for free fertiliser. You may also be able to turn the heating down whilst cooking your Christmas dinner as heat from the kitchen will help warm surrounding areas.
- 9. Charge up.** Don't forget your rechargeable batteries, not only do they use less energy (recharging batteries is more energy efficient than the cost and energy of making new batteries) and save money in the long term, but will ensure the children's toys don't lose power when the shops are shut over Christmas.
- 10. Drive smarter.** Under-inflated tyres increase your fuel consumption and can be dangerous on the road, check them before long journeys and travelling over Christmas. Keeping your tyres inflated all year can save £30 a year on fuel costs (Energy Saving Trust).



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