

# Energy Newsletter



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## RCT Switch

The RCT Switch is there to help residents save money on energy bills. It was a service set up to provide impartial advice by the energy efficiency team. The main aim is to help people realise how much they could save annually on their energy bills, however general energy advice is also available as well as advice with energy debt. Switching has changed a lot and these days if it is done online can be completed within ten minutes.

**Helps you save money on your energy bills!**

- Impartial advice provided by the Council's Energy Efficiency Service
- Provides advice and assistance on energy bill debts
- No obligation, no fuss, no hassle service
- Other general energy advice also available
- Free of charge for RCT residents

We can help if you are having difficulty paying energy bills, are in debt or would just like to review your tariff to see if there are cheaper deals available please contact us for further information.

Telephone: 01443 444511  
or email: [heatandsave@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:heatandsave@rctcbc.gov.uk)  
to register your interest

**heat & save**

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# Hidden People Boiler Grant

Last year we secured funding from Welsh Government to help residents of RCT secure a new and efficient combi boiler along with heating controls and a magnacleaner. If eligible the scheme was free for RCT residents.

The criteria for the scheme was:

- Current system/boiler 10+ years old
- Own the property
- Have under £10,000 in savings
- Have a cold related illness (any condition worsened by living in cold/damp conditions)

Due to the success we are hoping to secure more funding for the scheme this year. It's not set in stone but currently we have a reserve list for residents who meet the criteria.



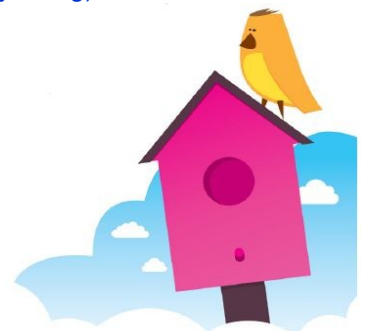
Wayne Street, Aberdare

A good case study of the Nest scheme was a property in Aberdare. The heating system was over 25 years old and there was no heating upstairs at all. There was no telephone at the property and the gentleman was unaware of the Nest scheme. Our Housing Energy Officer called to the property for a home visit regarding other issues, had a quick look around asked a few questions and phoned Nest to apply for a new central heating system. Within a month Nest had inspected the property, agreed works and installed the measures, meaning for the first time there was heating in the bedrooms and a new energy efficient combi boiler to supply all the new radiators, making everyday life easier whilst also saving money. All the improvements were free and the gentleman could not believe he had never heard of the scheme. He was shocked at how fast the improvements were made and the support that was out there.

If you can answer **YES** to **ALL** of the following you may also be eligible for the Nest scheme to receive free home energy efficiency improvements:

- You own or privately rent your home (not from a local authority or housing association)
- You live in a home that is energy inefficient (homes with an E, F or G efficiency rating)
- You or someone you live with receives a means tested benefit.

To contact Nest to check eligibility you can call on **08088 082244**.







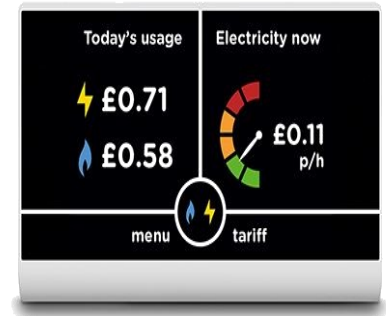
## Smart meter roll out

The government has asked energy suppliers to install smart meters in every home in England, Wales and Scotland with the goal of every home having a smart meter by 2020.

Smart meters will give you more control over your energy, help you understand your bills and allow you to see what the energy you use is costing you.

Smart meters come with an in-home display screen that shows you exactly how much energy you're using in pounds and pence, in near real time and will bring an end to estimated bills. You can wave goodbye to complicated meter readings. The smart meter shows a digital meter reading and automatically sends the reading to your energy supplier at least once a month, so you will receive accurate, not estimated, bills.

For any further information on Smart meters you can visit <https://www.smartenergygb.org/en>. This website is full of information and videos to help explain the benefits of smart meters and the roll out in more detail.



**Heat and Save Minor works:**  
Is a scheme where the Housing Energy officers identify minor energy measures such as Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVS), Insulation, Draught Proofing, and referrals to Care and Repair to install the minor measures suggested? There is a max spend per property of £500.

The criteria are:

- £500 max spend per property
- No age limit
- Have to have under £5000 in savings
- Must own or privately rent the property

STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE  
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TREFTAADAETH GADARN | DYFFODOL SICR



# Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water



## HelpU dwr Cymru:

If your household income is less than £15,000 per year, you may be eligible to receive support from Welsh Water's HelpU tariff to reduce the amount you pay for water. It's important you include all the income your household receives from all adults who live at your property. Adults being anyone aged 16 years and over. The HelpU tariff will cap your water bill at £190 (£81 for water and £109 for sewerage.)

Here's a list of types of incomes to consider (but not limited to):

- Carer's Allowance
- Child Maintenance
- Childcare Credits
- Fostering Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Statutory Sick Pay
- Pension Credit
- Statutory Adoption Pay
- Student Loan
- Universal Credit (excluding Housing element)
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credits
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Guardian's Allowance
- Income Support
- Maternity Allowance
- Maternity & Paternity Pay
- Private Pension
- Shared Parental Pay
- Working Tax Credit



For further information on anything mentioned in the newsletter, please contact the 'Energy Hub' on 01443 444511 or 01443 425488