

Utility bills

wandle

Having troubles paying your utility bills?



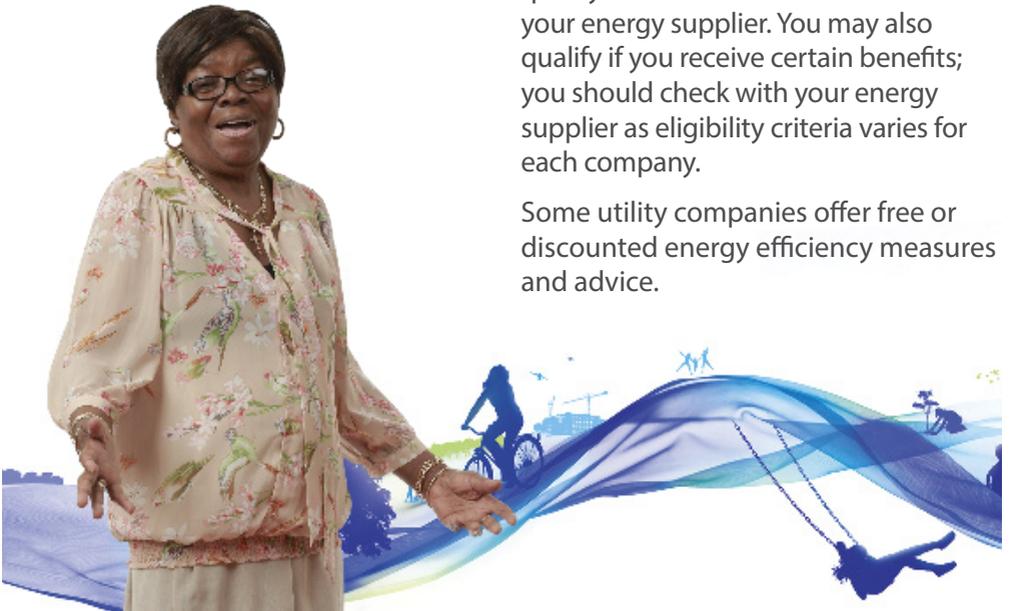
If you are having difficulty paying your bills, some utility companies provide a range of help including grants, discount schemes and different payment plans. This may help you manage your bills and more easily.

Grants are available for help with utility arrears, household furniture and other priority debts or in some very extreme cases can even help with fees for bankruptcy. Some utility companies will

require you keep to a payment plan for your current bill for a period of time before a grant is made.

The 'Warm Homes Discount' is available for some people who are most at risk of getting in to financial difficulty including those on low income or receiving pension credit, and subject to eligibility can provide rebate of £135 on annual energy bills. If you receive Pension Credit, you automatically qualify and should receive a letter from your energy supplier. You may also qualify if you receive certain benefits; you should check with your energy supplier as eligibility criteria varies for each company.

Some utility companies offer free or discounted energy efficiency measures and advice.





Wandle may be able to help you make applications to utility grants. If you require this help please speak with your Customer Relationship Officer.

Top tips to save money on energy bills

1. The Energy Saving Trust has a free home energy check: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/homeenergycheck this will help you find out where to make energy-efficiency improvements and how much you might save. It may help you save up to £250
2. Turn down your heating – Reducing room temperatures about just 1°C can cut heating bills by around £65 a year according to the Energy Saving Trust, so put on a jumper rather than turning up the heating when it's not really needed
3. Change your light bulb – Energy saving-light bulbs can help you cut your energy bills easily. If you replace all the light bulbs in your house with energy saving ones, you could save about £60 a year. Remember, energy-saving light bulbs do last longer than traditional ones. Sometimes your local council or utility company will be able to give

you free free energy saving light bulbs, contact them to find out

4. Get an energy monitor or smart meter – An energy monitor is a simple handheld gadget that measures and shows you how much energy you're using, so you can see where to cut back. Monitors cost from around £40 in Home Stores but some councils and utility companies may give them away for free. If you cannot get one free, a low cost alternative is to take a note of your meter readings on a daily or weekly basis so that you can monitor your own usage.

For more information please contact your Local Area Team

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