

TOGETHER IN SUSSEX⁺

If you're struggling to afford your energy bills, you might be able to take advantage of certain benefits, grants and help offered by the government and energy suppliers.

Cold Weather Payments

Cold Weather Payments are one-off payments to help you pay for extra heating costs when it's very cold.

You'll get a payment each time the temperature drops below a specific temperature for a set period of time.

You'll only be eligible if you already get:

- Pension Credit
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit

Find out more about cold weather payments here: <https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment/>

Winter Fuel Payment

The Winter Fuel Payment is an annual one-off payment to help you pay for heating during the winter.

You can usually get a Winter Fuel Payment if you were born on or before 5 October 1954.

Find how much you can get, and how to claim here: <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/>

Warm Home Discount Scheme

You might be able to get £140 off your electricity bill under the Warm Home Discount Scheme if you're either:

- getting the guarantee credit part of Pension Credit
- on a low income

Check with your supplier to see if they offer the Warm Home Discount - not all suppliers are part of the scheme.

If you've applied for the Warm Home Discount but you switch supplier before you get the payment, you have to apply again with your new supplier. Your new supplier might have different rules about who gets the discount. This doesn't affect you if you get the discount automatically, without having to apply.

Find out more about the Warm Home Discount Scheme here: <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/>

Grants to help pay off your energy debts

If you're in debt to your energy supplier, you might be able to get a grant from a charitable trust to help pay it off.

The following energy companies offer grants and schemes that are **open to anyone** - you don't have to be a customer:

British Gas Energy Trust: <https://britishgasenergytrust.org.uk/>

There are also companies who offer grants specifically **for their customers**:

npower Energy Fund: <https://www.npowerenergyfund.com/>

Scottish Power Hardship Fund: <https://community.scottishpower.co.uk/t5/Extra-Help/Hardship-Fund/ta-p/53/>

Ovo debt and energy assistance: <https://www.ovoenergy.com/help/debt-and-energy-assistance/>

E.on Energy Fund: <https://www.eonenergy.com/more-for-your-home/energy-fund.html/>

EDF Energy Customer Support Fund: <https://www.edfenergytrust.org.uk/>

When you apply for a grant, you'll have to provide detailed information about your financial situation in your application. It could take a while to complete, and it might be worth getting help from a friend or family member. You can also talk to an adviser at the citizens advice for help filling in forms. <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/contact-us/>

Before you apply

Charitable trusts like you to show that you have received **debt advice** before you apply. Debt advice can help you manage your debts and increase your chances of making a successful application.