

## Finally, do you have any further thoughts or comments on the Challenge?

- Were there any particular findings that you thought were interesting or surprising?
- Would you like any help or advice?
- Have you got any further ideas or suggestions?

**Please return this Challenge diary to your Council's Climate Change or Sustainability Officer.** Or pop in the post to the Big Switch Off team, c/o Gillian Squires, Sustainability Officer, North West Leicestershire District Council, Council Offices, Whitwick Road, Coalville, Leics, LE67 3FJ

Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Email:

(Your details will be held by the Big Switch Off team according to the Data Protection Act 1998 and will not be disclosed to any third parties.)



## Big Energy Challenge

Simple, fun and the results may surprise you!

Name:

City/Town/Village

## First things first

Thank you very much for agreeing to take part in the Big Energy Challenge.

This is your chance to trial an electricity monitor at home and work out how much energy you are using - and potentially wasting.

Most people find that the monitor can help them reduce their fuel bills, always a good thing!

You may wish to make the Challenge a personal one, where you simply find out more about your home energy habits.

Or you may be happy to share your findings. By doing so you will help encourage other families across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to think about reducing their energy consumption too.

By taking part in the Challenge you will probably find that you get into the habit of taking regular energy readings. This will help you make long-term energy and cost savings.

## How long will the Challenge last?

This will depend on how long you have borrowed the monitor for. Ideally we would encourage you to trial the monitor for four weeks to give you a good picture of your energy use.

But, if you only have the monitor for just one or two weeks, that is absolutely fine.

The important thing is that you remember to take regular meter readings from your main electricity meter.

If you take part for one week try to record daily readings. If you take part for two, three or four weeks, take readings at the start of each week and at the end of the last week.



## What I thought of the Challenge



Please tick the most appropriate box to answer the following questions.

### 1. How interesting did you find the Challenge?

not at all interesting	1	2	3	4	5	very interesting

### 2. How easy was it to install the monitor?

very difficult	1	2	3	4	5	very easy

### 3. Do you think you will change your energy use habits as a result of the Challenge?

yes  no  unsure

### 4. Would you like to help champion energy efficiency campaigns in the future? If so please include a contact email or postal address on this Challenge booklet.

yes  no  unsure

### 5. Are you happy for us to share your results?

yes  yes (but not named)  no



## Where the electricity goes

Can you tell which appliances use the most electricity in your home? Note down the extra cost of powering these appliances - this is the difference between the reading on the electricity monitor display before and after the appliance is in use.

Appliance	Rise in cost (pence/hour)
TV	
Stereo	
Kettle	
Electric shower	
Washing machine	
Tumble dryer	
Dish washer	
Phone charger	
Computer	
Hairdryer	
Hair straighteners	
All the lights on at once	
<b>Other items..</b>	

What is the cost of your electricity, as you set it on the monitor?

pence  
per kWh



## Getting the most from your monitor

First of all, read the instructions closely. A top tip is to make sure that you set up the transmitter in your meter box first before setting up the receiver (the portable monitor).

Use the electricity monitor to keep an eye on daily energy use in your home and record your findings in the tables overleaf.

By pressing 'MODE' you can switch between different measures of the energy you are using and get a lot more information from the device.

### 1. Cost in pence per hour

Shows how much the current level of power consumption in your home is costing you. This is based on the value you entered from your electricity bill. As power consumption rises, so will your electricity bill!

### 2. Power consumption in kW

Shows the amount of power you are currently using. This will rise when your demand for electricity increases, for example if you boil the kettle or turn on a light.

### 3. Greenhouse gas emissions

These gases (such as carbon dioxide) are believed to play a key part in climate change. Since a major source of these gases is the generation of electricity, the energy monitor calculates the effective amount of greenhouse emissions being produced by your current level of electricity use.

**Reducing the amount of energy we use can help combat climate change and save money at the same time!**

## Week 1 - Taking meter readings



### Read your meter

Record your electricity meter box reading for the start and the end of the week. But if you're taking the Challenge for longer than a week then fill in the table opposite instead.

	Date	Time	Meter reading
Start of week			
End of week			

### Read your monitor

For the first week use the electricity monitor to keep an eye on daily energy use in your home. After one week you should have a good idea of where you are using most energy and where you're wasting it.

Day	Typical reading for the day	Any high readings? Do you know what caused the increase in electricity use?	What's the lowest reading you've taken?
Mon			
Tues			
Wed			
Thurs			
Fri			
Sat			
Sun			

## I'm taking the Challenge for longer than a week

The electricity monitor will tell you how much energy you are using at any one moment. But in order to record how much electricity you are consuming over a period of time you will need to take readings from your main electricity meter. It makes sense to do this for longer than a week, in fact the longer the better.

### If you are taking the Challenge for:

- 2 weeks** - record readings for A, B and C
- 3 weeks** - record readings for A, B, D and E
- 4 weeks** - record readings for A, B, D, F and G

### My electricity meter readings

Week	When?	Day	Date	Meter Reading	
1	Start of week				A
2	Start of week				B
	End of week				C
3	Start of week				D
	End of week				E
4	Start of week				F
	End of week				G

### How much energy have I been using?

	I am taking the trial for					
	2 weeks		3 weeks		4 weeks	
Week 1	B-A		B-A		B-A	
Week 2	C-B		D-B		D-B	
Week 3			E-D		F-D	
Week 4					G-F	
<b>Total</b>						