

Dudley's big switch (collective energy switching)

FAQs

What does collective energy switching really mean?

Collective energy switching is a term used to describe communities coming together to secure discounted tariffs from energy suppliers.

It's a national initiative where councils across the country go to auction to see which energy company will offer the best tariff for their residents.

In Dudley, a switching specialist called iChoosr will act as an intermediary between the council and the energy suppliers.

How much money will I save?

Dudley Council can not guarantee how much money you will save but the more people that register onto the scheme, the greater saving for all - potentially.

Some people may already be on the best tariff and in this case they are unlikely to make any further savings through the collective energy scheme.

Is it really worth the effort?

Yes. This is a great way to potentially reduce your energy bills. It's is easy to register your interest and then once the auction has taken place; you receive an offer from the winning energy company, which you can either choose to accept or decline. If you choose to accept the offer, then the energy company will take care of the switching process on your behalf. It's that simple.

Is the same deal offered to everyone?

The energy company will offer various tariffs at the auction based on how people pay and whether they pay for dual fuel or pay for their gas and electricity separately.

If I register, am I guaranteed to save money on my energy bills?

No. Some people may already be on the best tariff and in this case they are unlikely to make any further savings through the collective energy scheme.

Please note that registering on the scheme does not stop you from checking the market through other switching sites.

If more people register onto the scheme, are the energy companies likely to offer a better deal?

Yes. This is a collective. The more people that choose to register their interest, the greater the potential for a better tariff from the energy companies.

If I register my interest, do I have to switch?

No, there is no obligation to switch for anyone that registers their interest.

Does it matter if I pay for my gas and electricity separately?

No. This scheme is open to everyone.

Following the auction, how quickly could I switch?

It will be a few weeks before the winning energy supplier contacts you to make an offer. If you accept the offer, it will take approx six weeks to switch to the new supplier.

Who can I talk to, to find out more information?

For information you can call or visit Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 or come along to an event specially organised to tell people about Dudley's big switch. Information about the events will be posted on the council's website shortly.

How long does the deal last?

It varies. Energy providers could offer fixed rate tariffs or variable tariffs, it depends on what deal the energy supplier is offering. With some you are tied in for a certain period of time, others you are not.

If only a few households out of all the households that registered decide to switch, then will the successful company still offer the same deal that was agreed?

Yes. The tariffs agreed at the auction will be upheld irrelevant to how many people actually decide to switch.

Do I have to live within Dudley borough? What if I'm on the border?

If you live outside of Dudley borough, you need to contact your local authority and register on their switching scheme.

Is Dudley Council making money from the scheme?

Dudley Council and choosr will get a share of a referral fee from the winning energy suppliers who offered the best deal. Dudley Council will use this fee to invest in raising awareness about the scheme and to invest in other initiatives to tackle fuel poverty.