

Sustainable Ideford introduces: THE A-Z OF SUSTAINABILITY

Following on from our Mission Statement in the last issue of the parish magazine, the Sustainable Ideford Group present an A-Z with ideas on how you can change your impact without radically changing your life. We kick off with A - Appliances and what they cost to run.

We all know that tumble driers use a lot of electricity but did you know your kettle can consume a lot too, especially if you fill it up with more water than you need? With electricity prices so high and the energy price “cap” forecast to rise by 82% in October (source: Cornwall Insight), it is more important than ever to understand which appliance costs what to run. We ourselves have been rather shocked by what we found in the following table.

Appliance	Power Usage	Typical usage	Est. annual running cost now	Est. annual running cost from October
LCD TV	0.21 kWh per hour	6 hours a day	£130.00	£236.60
Fridge Freezer (A spec)	408 kWh per year	24 hours per day	£115.00	£209.30
Tumble Drier	2.5 kWh per cycle	148 uses per year	£105.00	£191.10
Electric hob	0.71 kWh per use	424 uses per year	£85.00	£154.70
Electric oven	1.56 kWh per use	135 uses per year	£60.00	£109.20
Dishwasher	1.44 kWh per use (at 65 C)	135 uses per year	£55.00	£100.10
Kettle, 1 litre of water	0.11 kWh	1,542 uses per year	£48.00	£87.36

Source: Compare the Market

Of course, nobody's actual usage follows the “typical” pattern. You may watch TV less than six hours a day, but boil the kettle more than the assumed four-and-a-bit times. If you run a dishwasher every day, it could cost you nearly £150 a year, or nearly £270 from October.

So what can we do about these costs, apart from hoping for more help from the Government? Here are a few ideas to get you thinking:

1. A 2017 study by Compare the Market found that changing your light bulbs to LEDs could reduce your electricity bill by £230 per year. At October 2022 prices, it could be twice as much. They last longer too and can be recycled.
2. A kettle with just a couple of cupfuls of water will use less electricity than a full one. Or you can boil a full kettle and put the surplus in a vacuum flask to use later.
3. A half-empty dishwasher, though, uses the same electricity and water as a full one. You can save by waiting until the machine is full and by using the lowest-temperature programme. Or wash up by hand!
4. Drying clothes outdoors is free, if you can do it. In winter, some people successfully dry them on a rack indoors.
5. Every new appliance carries an energy-efficiency rating. Going for an A rating will save you money, even if you pay a bit more up-front. Websites such as tool.label2020.eu/gb can help you make the right choice.
6. Think about solar panels: the economics of fitting them get more favourable the higher the price of electricity rises. And solar energy helps us move away from fossil fuels.