

Energy Advice Line renews calls for firms to lock in business electricity prices

Submitted by: LexisClick

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The Energy Advice Line has renewed calls for small and medium-sized firms to seek out and lock into the best available business electricity (http://www.energyadvice.org.uk/business_electricity.php) deals as energy prices become more volatile.

The call by the UK's leading business electricity price comparison (<http://www.energyadvice.org.uk/l-business-electricity-price-comparison.php>) and switching service comes as one of the Big Six suppliers announced a 9% energy price rise while another supplier declared a 14% cut in tariffs.

Power NI has announced it will cut electricity prices for Northern Ireland customers from October, shaving an estimated £80 off a typical household electricity bill.

But SSE – which trades as Southern Electric, Swalec and Scottish Hydro – has said it would increase tariffs by 9% in a move affecting 5 million electricity and 3.4 million gas customers. In January, SSE promised to freeze household energy prices until October 2012.

In announcing the rise, SSE said it would cap energy bills following the October increase until at least the second half of 2013.

“Unfortunately, the increases in costs that we have seen since making (the January) pledge can no longer be absorbed and mean that we are unable to keep prices at their current levels beyond this autumn,” said Ian Marchant, SSE chief executive.

“An increase in our prices has therefore, regrettably, become unavoidable.”

Julian Morgan, managing director of the Energy Advice Line, the UK's leading business electricity price comparison (<http://www.energyadvice.org.uk/l-business-electricity-price-comparison.php>) and switching service, said he feared there was further misery to come for business electricity customers.

“It is more than likely that once one of the Big Six makes an announcement like this, the others will follow suit, and there will probably be increases by other suppliers in the next few months,” he said.

“This will affect energy prices for both households and business energy customers.

“We would urge business electricity users to switch to better deals while they can and perhaps lock in for 1, 2 or even 3-year contracts.

“There are some good fixed-rate deals out there and we can help firms find them.”

Mr Morgan urged firms to seek the advice of a reputable and independent switching services like the Energy Advice Line to help them with the complexities of business electricity and gas tariffs, which made

it difficult to compare like for like.

“Until the Government and Ofgem reform the business energy market to make energy tariffs clear and transparent, it is very difficult for businesses to make an informed choice about the best deals,” he said.

“Our team of business electricity (http://www.energyadvice.org.uk/business_electricity.php) experts can help here. Not only can we search the market for the cheapest tariffs, but we can provide ongoing help and advice in what can be a complex market.”

The Energy Advice Line is the UK’s leading energy price comparison and switching service for business, and enables firms to compare the market for the best possible business energy deals at the touch of a button.

The service has a team of business experts who can give advice about business energy contracts and how to avoid expensive contract rollovers. For further information visit www.energyadvice.org.uk