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little-known facts about smart meters for small businesses

Smart meters replace your traditional gas and electric meters and automatically send readings to your energy supplier, ending estimated bills.

But beyond accurate billing, there are some lesser-known benefits that could help your small business save money and operate smarter.

Eligibility: Small businesses with under 10 employees may be eligible for a smart meter at no extra cost. Contact your energy supplier to check if your business qualifies.

Fact 1: A smart meter may give you more options for energy tariffs which charge you less for energy at off-peak times

Smart meters can unlock financial rewards for small businesses for using energy at different times of the day.

Time of use tariffs

Some energy suppliers offer tariffs where rates change throughout the day. For example, if you use energy during off-peak hours (like overnight or weekends) you could pay significantly less. Or if your business uses EVs, these tariffs will let you charge them overnight to reduce costs when the vehicles are not in use. Energy tariffs for small businesses are not as widely available as they are for households so speak to your supplier about what options are available to you.



My tariff means the rate I'm charged changes depending on when I use energy, so I'm rewarded for using energy outside of peak times, when it's cheaper and greener. This is good for the planet, and good for me too, as I benefit financially."

Grahame Case, who runs Have It Framed Ltd, Edinburgh

Demand Flexibility Service (DFS)

You can also earn money by reducing energy use during peak times when the grid is under pressure. Last winter, businesses and homes that participated saved enough energy to power 12.7 million homes for an hour and got paid for it.



Why you need a smart meter

Traditional meters can't provide the detailed data that makes tracking any of this possible.

Important: Not all suppliers offer these tariffs, and participation in DFS is voluntary. Check with your energy supplier about what's available.

Fact 2: Say hello to accurate energy bills

Because smart meters track your energy use in near real-time, your small business will only be charged for the energy it actually uses.



What this means

Say goodbye to estimated bills, providing helpful transparency for your business budgeting.

Fact 3: Smart meters give you valuable insights on your business energy use

Smart meters can help turn your energy use into actionable business intelligence. With a smart meter, your energy supplier will provide you with updates on your energy use.

How do you access this data

Energy suppliers must now give small businesses with smart meters access to free and regular information on their energy use. Your energy supplier may provide this via an app, and online platform, a smart meter display or other data tools.

Grahame uses this strategically:



I check the data from my smart meter each day. The information helps me identify trends on what's using the most energy, and where I might make cost savings or shift my usage around. I can see half-hourly readings and compare week-to-week usage."

Business requirements many don't know about

Companies in your supply chain are increasingly asking for energy usage data. Smart meters make this super simple to provide. Access to this data could help you to improve your carbon reporting.

Why traditional meters can't do this

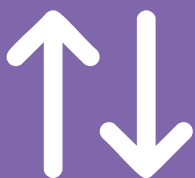
Your old meter just shows a cumulative total, no timing, no patterns, no useful business insights.

Want to explore smart meters for your business?

Installation is quick and the benefits even faster.

Contact your energy supplier to discuss eligibility, available tariffs, and installation scheduling. Remember that offerings vary from supplier to supplier.

Ready to make the switch?



Join the many businesses who've already upgraded.

Installation takes about two hours and works around your busy schedule.

Find out more

Visit Smart Energy GB

Quick installation facts



The process

Installation typically take about two hours, one hour for each meter, and are scheduled in advance so you can plan around your business operations with minimal disruption.



Flexibility

Suppliers may offer evening or weekend installation appointments to work around your business.