

REF: 506 PAYING FOR FUEL

Quarterly/Bimonthly

The bill can be paid by cheque, cash or saving stamps at post offices, banks or fuel company showrooms with an account payment section.

Direct Debit

Quarterly or monthly payments of an agreed amount based on the fuel you have used over the last 12 months.

Budget Card

Weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments of an agreed amount paid at post offices or fuel company showrooms with an account payment section.

There may be a charge at the post office or bank for dealing with your payments depending on which fuel company you are with. Check this before deciding on a payment method.

Prepayment Card Meter

Electricity cards can be purchased from fuel company showrooms, automated machine points and at other shop/garage outlets.

Gas Quantum Meter

Gas meter cards can be charged up at post offices and at other shop/garage outlets. Check with the fuel company for details of local outlets.

Flexipay

You can pay any amount whenever you wish during the period of the quarterly bill. You will receive a bill, which will state whether you are in credit or have an outstanding amount to be paid. With this scheme you should pay what you reasonably expect to cover fuel used.

Fuel Direct

If you are in receipt of Income Support or Jobseekers Allowance (which is income based) and you have a fuel debt you can enter the Benefits Agency Fuel Direct scheme. Money is deducted weekly from your benefit to cover gas and/or electricity consumption plus a small amount towards the outstanding debt. You will need to contact your local Benefits Agency or SCARF for advice on this method of payment.

It is advisable to check with your fuel company for availability of these payment schemes and associated discounts. This information is also detailed on the reverse side of fuel bills.

**If you need advice on the most suitable payment method contact:
SCARF Energy Advice Team on FREEPHONE 0800 512012.**

May 2005

Mission Statement

SCARF aims to work through partnership to promote sustainable use of energy, eradicate fuel poverty and create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

Core Objectives

- + To provide free impartial and accessible energy efficiency advice and information services to help save energy, save cash and help save the environment.
- + To encourage investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy measures and grant take up for property improvements to achieve affordable warmth.
- + To create sustainable employment and training opportunities.

SCARF Provides

One Stop Energy Advice Shop offers free impartial advice and information:

- + Energy efficiency in the home, business and the community
- + Renewable energy in the home, business and the community
- + Grants for loft and cavity wall insulation
- + Grants for draughtproofing
- + Grants for central heating
- + Grants for renewable energy installations
- + Paying for fuel and fuel suppliers
- + Choice and operation of heating and hot water systems

SCARF also offers:

- + Home visits
- + Home energy checks
- + Presentations and informal training
- + NVQ and City & Guilds Qualifications