

Managing your energy costs

If you are having cancer treatment, you may be at home more. You may need to turn up the heating to cope with side effects, such as [weight loss](#), [hair loss](#) and [tiredness](#). This means your energy bills can increase when you may be unable to work or have a reduced income.

If you are worried about paying your energy bills, you should tell your supplier that you have cancer and find out what help they can offer. They may be able to:

- offer a cheaper tariff
- put your name on a list of people who need extra support
- give you a grant to help with any money you owe
- arrange for you to make regular payments to spread your costs.

Other ways to help you manage your energy costs include:

- switching your supplier to find cheaper alternatives
- finding out about government schemes that could help you save money on your energy costs. Visit energysavingtrust.org.uk for more information about this, and other energy-saving tips.
- making changes around the house such as insulating your loft and walls or using energy-saving lightbulbs.

We have a [leaflet with more energy-saving tips](#) and advice on cutting down your energy bills.

You can also call an energy adviser on the free Macmillan Support Line [0808 808 0000](tel:0808808000).

We have tips to help you save money by being more [energy efficient](#).

Water rates

Water companies are not allowed to disconnect your water supply if you have not paid your bills. Some water companies have schemes that may be able to help pay your water bill.

Some water providers also provide support called a social tariff. These aim to reduce monthly bills for people on low-incomes or who have health conditions that mean they use more water. For example people who need to wash their bedding more often.

You can download a booklet called **Help with water and energy bills** at aurigaservices.co.uk. This shows all the current schemes from water companies.

You can also contact your water supplier to ask what support is available.