Why get a smart meter?

Smart meters are the new generation of gas and electricity meters that measure energy use in near real-time, sending automatic meter readings directly and securely to your energy supplier. At the end of June 2023, over 33 million smart meters were in homes and small businesses across Great Britain¹.

Smart meters put you in greater control and give you visibility of your energy use, which can help with managing finances and cashflow.

Smart meters are currently available and installations are happening now. Many small businesses can get a smart meter installed at no extra cost².
Advice for small business owners who rent their premises

Whether you own or rent your premises, you may be eligible for a smart meter. If you pay your own energy bills, you can ask your supplier to install a smart meter, or you may also be offered one by your supplier.

You may need to check with your landlord that changes to your meters are allowed within your rental contract. Alternatively, if your landlord pays the energy bills, contact them and ask if they are planning to get one for your building.

Eligibility

Eligibility is based on the number of employees a business has, annual turnover and energy consumption. You may be eligible for a smart meter if your business:

☑ has fewer than ten employees, or their full-time equivalent (including the business owner*) or
☑ has an annual turnover of less than £1.67 million or
☑ uses no more than 100,000 kWh of electricity per year or
☑ uses no more than 293,000 kWh of gas per year

*You may also be able to get a smart meter installed if you have a small business with more than 10 employees based on the annual turnover and energy consumption and criteria listed above.

To find out if your business is eligible for a smart meter, contact your energy supplier or broker for more information. You can find your supplier on our website at smartenergyGB.org/businesses-that-rent
Smart meter benefits for you

Smart meters have lots of benefits for small businesses, including:

**Accurate billing:**
smart meters measure energy usage in near real-time — so no more manual readings or estimated bills. This means you only pay for the energy you use, and can help with managing cashflow.

**Control:**
the data provided by smart meters can give you more control over your business’ energy spend, helping you monitor energy usage and identify where cost savings can be made.

**Access to historic energy usage data:**
small businesses with a smart meter can request free access to 12 months of data from their energy supplier. This could help with budgeting and reduce bill shock.

Smart meter benefits for everyone

**Less fossil fuels and more green energy:**
the smart meter roll out is the most ambitious upgrade to our energy system in a generation, helping us move to a more a more efficient, cleaner and more responsive energy system. This will enable us to rely less on imported fossil fuels such as oil and gas, and increase our use of cheaper, greener energy like wind and solar power.
Getting a smart meter installed

Installations usually take about two hours and need to be booked in advance.

Your engineer will need to turn off your electricity and/or gas supply to complete the installation.

Your energy supplier will work with you to find a convenient time to cause minimum disruption to your business.

Smart meter offerings may vary between suppliers, and each supplier could have different terms and conditions relating to these offerings.

If working with a Third Party Intermediary (TPI) or broker, contact them directly.

About Smart Energy GB

Smart Energy GB is the independent, non-profit, government-backed organisation that helps households and small businesses across Great Britain to understand how smart meters can benefit them, their families and the environment.

² Depending on your business’s energy supplier and tariff, you may be charged for part of the upgrade. Your supplier will let you know about any charges up front.