



# Change for the better

Smart meters are helping millions of people save money on their energy. Need convincing? Just ask Steve

**W**e all appreciate the familiarity of a routine, and often we need a very good reason to deviate from it. Sometimes, even though certain changes to our home lives might feel inconsequential, they can actually end up making things much easier. And you might think that since we've been monitoring our energy usage the same way for generations, it will always stay the same – inconvenient meter readings, and inaccurate energy bills.

In fact, thanks to the smart meter, it has never been easier or more convenient. The smart meter is a very simple upgrade that could make a big impact on your energy usage. It replaces your existing gas and electricity meters, and comes with a handy screen that shows you exactly how much money you're spending on energy usage, in pounds and pence, in near-real time.

When *Radio Times* reader Steve Tupper, 68, from Essex, had his smart meter installed by his energy supplier, he began seeing the benefits straightaway. Steve says, "It was easy to set up the appointment. When the meter was being installed, I was told well in advance that I would be without power for two hours, so I was able to plan for it."

At first, Steve was so enthusiastic about his new in-home display that he found himself checking it hourly. "I still glance at it daily," he says, "and whenever I do it's very simple to use and virtually hands-free. There are really easy-to-follow diagrams."

Steve quickly found that having such up-to-date information proved a great

motivator to start saving on his energy costs. "It makes it especially easy to see when you're saving. For instance, we're often told to save energy by washing at 30°C instead of 40°C, but when I actually tried it, by looking at the smart meter's display unit, I could see straightaway how much of a positive difference it made to my energy consumption."

It made me feel better to know I was doing something about it

And it's not just Steve who has noticed the benefits. "Three of my neighbours were curious as to what it was, and although they're not particularly into a lot of new technologies, it was simply a case of showing them, switching on the kettle and saying, 'Here it is – this is what it does!' I think once people see it in action, they realise how simple it is."

Steve is a proud grandfather, and on one of his daughter's regular visits from London with her baby daughter, she was also prompted to upgrade to a smart meter after seeing how straightforward it was. "It's not just about saving, but we are always asked what we can do to be more energy conscious, and it made me feel better to know I was doing something about it," Steve says.

Steve's is a story that's being re-created in homes across the country, so why not make yours the next?

## START SAVING

Join Steve and millions of others up and down the country by asking your energy supplier to install a smart meter in your home at no extra cost – after a few months you'll probably wonder how you ever lived without it. The easy-to-use in-home display shows you exactly how much energy you're using in pounds and pence, in near-real time, and automatically sends a meter reading to your energy supplier.

All of this means no more manual meter readings, accurate (rather than estimated) bills, and a great opportunity to monitor your usage so that you can make changes that could save you energy and bring your costs down, just like Steve!

Contact your energy supplier today about getting a smart meter, at no extra cost

To find out who your gas supplier is, call 0870 608 1524

