

Energy Efficiency - Money Efficiency!

Use the Library

When you're studying there you can also be charging your phone as it also provides electrical outlets for students to use.

Use these outlets to charge everything you own: Your phone, your iPod, your camera, your laptop etc. You are paying for your tuition anyway, so you may as well save where you can. Also, if you are feeling cold at any point then you can use the libraries heating to warm you up.

Listen to your mother: wrap up warm.

Manchester is cold and wet! As the temperature drops, it can be tempting to crank the heating up to keep your flat warm. However, if you are walking around a flat in December in a t-shirt and shorts, you are doing something wrong.

Listen to your mother's advice and put a jumper on. Layer up with socks, slippers, vests and anything else you can find. Remember that if you reduce your heating by as little as 1C, it can cut your annual bills by up to 10%.

Be smart with your bills

Always make sure your electric supplier has the correct meter readings. Often, you can be lumped with a massive estimated bill, but it is easy to phone them up with your correct readings or do it online in most cases. If your estimation is lower, you can choose whether to save money that month and pay more in the next bill, or keep yourself right.

Also check different providers for the cheapest deal. Use comparison sites and don't be afraid to change, if you're responsible for your bills you are allowed to decide who you go with even if your landlord says otherwise!

Usually, if you pay by direct debit or opt for paperless billing, a discount is offered, so always check these options out.

Use energy-efficient products

Use energy efficient lightbulbs always! They are the one of the best energy-saving tools around. Also, they not only help you save money but the environment too.

You will need to look out for products that are energy-efficient by looking at their rating which is

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shown by a letter ranked A++ to G. All appliances ranked A++ and A are the best at saving energy and saving you money.

Did you know that an energy-saving light bulb could save you up to £60 over its lifetime, and last up to 10 times longer than its standard bulb cousin? You do now.

Save electricity when washing

If you have a half load of whites and a half load of colours, do not waste your time and money doing two separate washes and don't wash things unless they need it.

The lower the heat the less energy used.

Also, never ever use a tumble drier. Buy a clothes horse, plan your washing so you don't have an hour for your work uniform to dry, and don't waste what you don't need.

Spend money to make money

You can buy draft excluders and insulating curtains for low prices on eBay. If you buy them directly from a shop, expect to pay more than double the price.

If you are not the homeowner, it's not possible for you to do things like install double glazing or insulate the floor or walls. However, it's always worth asking your landlord if they would consider doing this. If they refuse, you can buy temporary glazing film from hardware shops at around £4 a metre which is easy to use and guaranteed to keep extra heat in.

Keep an eye on your flatmates

As vigilant as you are at turning of lights and heating, always keep an eye on what your flatmates are doing. Agree on a time to set the heating and do not touch it even if you are tempted to.

If your flatmate is prone to leaving the TV on standby then remind them that if it keeps happening, they will have to pay the extra.

In addition, always check that chargers are not plugged in when they are not being used. This not only uses needless electricity, it can also lead to fires.

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Other handy energy-saving tips

- Turn down your water thermostat (usually located in the boiler room).
- Only ever boil as much water as you need in a kettle.
- Make sure all windows are tight shut.
- Get active in the house. Do some exercise and keep warm.
- Snuggle up with your housemates (if you are that close) and keep extra warm.
- Use a hot water bottle at night to save leaving the heating on later than necessary (don't turn on the heating at times when you are sleeping)
- Don't block heaters with furniture as it will prevent the room from getting warm. Similarly, after using an oven, keep the door open so it warms up the kitchen.

Some Useful websites

<http://www.energyhelpline.com/energy>

<http://www.savestudent.org/>

<http://www.studentswitchoff.org/save-energy>

<http://www.energysavingadvice.co.uk/>