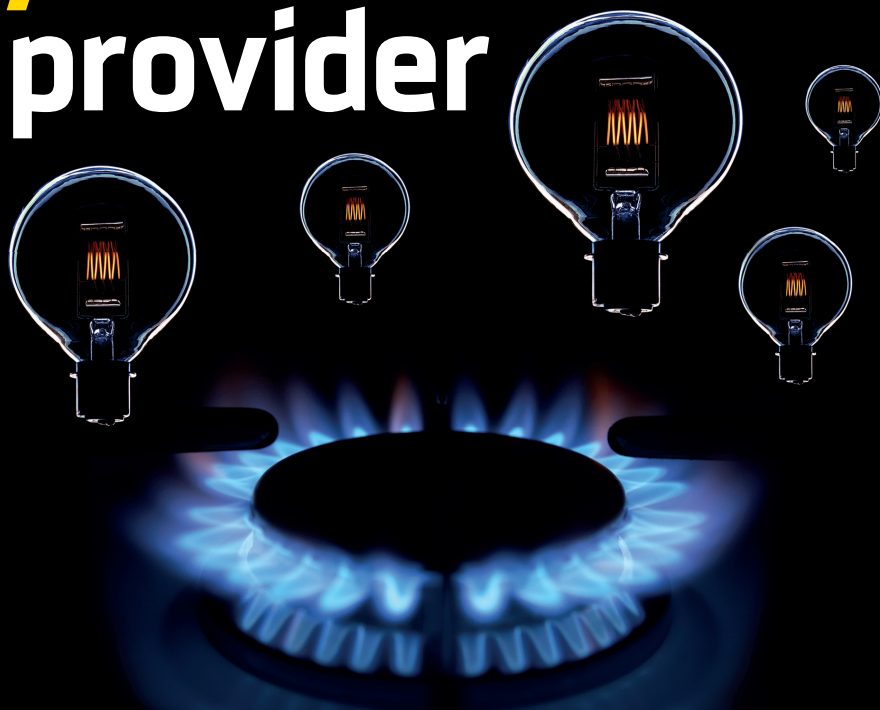


# Switch your energy provider online

There are now almost as many energy-switching services as there are providers. Robert Irvine tests six sites that promise to slash the cost of your gas and electricity



**MSE Autoswitch** | [bit.ly/3m5zcvL](https://bit.ly/3m5zcvL) | ★★★★★  
 FEATURES ★★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★★



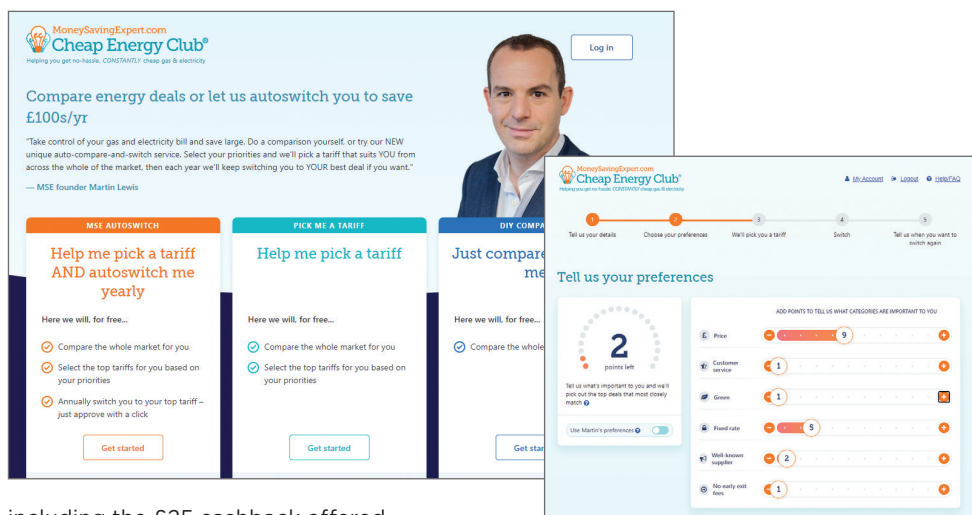
## What we liked:

MoneySavingExpert.com's auto-switching energy service only launched in September, into an already crowded marketplace. However, we believe it's the best option for reducing the amount of money you fork out on gas and electricity.

Adopting the accessible and trustworthy approach we've come to expect from Martin Lewis and his team, the site is specifically designed for those of us who put off changing providers because it seems like too much hassle.

To get started, simply enter your postcode and provide a few details about your home and current tariff, including how much energy you use or pay for every month, quarter or year (this can be estimated if you don't know). Instead of focusing solely on finding you the cheapest tariff, MSE uses a points-based system, which gives you 21 points to allocate to criteria such as customer service, green energy, no exit fees and fixed rates (and price, too, of course). Alternatively, you can use preferences chosen by Martin himself.

The site will then recommend the best tariff for your needs, which saved us a whopping £155 per year with Eon,



including the £25 cashback offered to MSE users. It also suggests two runners-up and lets you view the full range of deals by clicking 'See all tariffs'. Certain results are affiliate links to help fund the site, but these are clearly marked as such with asterisks.

Select 'Switch & get cashback' and you'll be taken to MSE's parent site, MoneySupermarket, to enter your details and set up your transfer.

## How it can be improved:

Whereas other services switch you automatically when a cheaper tariff becomes available, MSE Autoswitch only

moves you once a year, to ensure you avoid exit fees. However, it will email you when a better deal becomes available.

## OUR VERDICT

Although switching your energy provider isn't as difficult as it used to be, MSE Autoswitch makes the process commendably painless, while ensuring that you get the best tariff for your needs. It could save you hundreds of pounds a year on your gas and electricity bills.

# Switch your energy provider online

**BillBuddy** | [Billbuddy.co.uk](http://Billbuddy.co.uk) | ★★★★★  
 FEATURES ★★★★★ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★ EASE OF USE ★★★★★



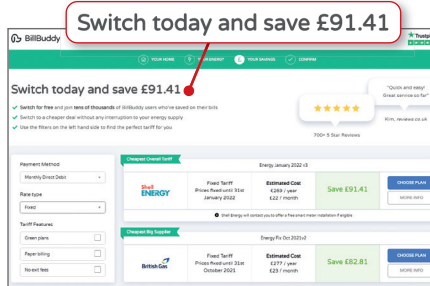
## What we liked:

BillBuddy makes finding and switching to a better energy deal incredibly quick and easy, and it's completely free to use.

Although the site earns a referral fee from the suppliers it recommends, it doesn't unfairly promote certain companies over others, and its results are more comprehensive than the other free services we tried.

Logically, the top result is always the cheapest overall tariff, which for us meant a tidy saving of £91.41 a year from Shell Energy. Below this are matches for the cheapest big supplier, if you'd rather not trust a small one, and the next cheapest green tariff, followed by a further 30 suggestions. These include useful information such as unit cost, cancellation fees and whether you'll need a smart meter. To switch, click Choose Plan and enter your details.

BillBuddy also lets you compare broadband and mobile deals (with home and car insurance coming soon), though these results direct you to the companies' own websites. You can also



get online support through a chatbot.

## How it can be improved:

Getting your initial quote involves working through a series of question screens, when a single page would be preferable. There's no mobile app, either, presumably because of an unrelated one called Bill Buddy.

## OUR VERDICT

Simple, speedy and free to use, BillBuddy cut the cost of your energy bills without you needing to shop around. It doesn't compare every tariff available, but you can't argue with the savings it finds.

**Switchd** | [switchd.co.uk](http://switchd.co.uk) | ★★★★★☆  
 FEATURES ★★★★★☆ PERFORMANCE ★★★★★☆ EASE OF USE ★★★★★☆

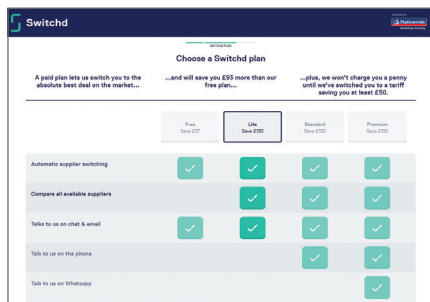


## What we liked:

Supported by the Nationwide Building Society, Switchd initially impressed us with an annual £130 saving on our energy bills (with Eon). The catch is that, unlike our other award winners, you need to sign up for a paid-for plan to get the full discount. The free option would only save us £37.

The cheapest plan, Lite, costs £1.99 a month (paid in six-month instalments once your first switch is initiated) and searches all available suppliers and more than 27,000 tariffs for the best deals. You can specify preferences such as green and fixed-rate tariffs, and whether you're happy to pay by direct debit, and choose not to switch automatically if you'll be charged an exit fee or if the saving is below a certain amount (from £50 to £200).

Switchd is the only service in this group to offer its own mobile app, but for phone support or a 'dedicated support agent', you need to pay £3.49 or £4.99 for Standard or Premium plans.



## How it can be improved:

Switchd's registration form is spread over several pages and requires more personal information upfront than rival services, such as date of birth. You also need to provide regular meter readings to ensure your bills aren't estimated.

## OUR VERDICT

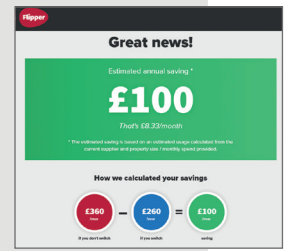
If you want to automatically switch energy suppliers as cheaper tariffs become available, then Switchd Lite is worth the subscription fee, giving you access to the full range of suppliers and savings.

## BEST OF THE REST

### Flipper

[flipper.community](http://flipper.community)

Flipper claims to be the original energy auto-switching service, and charges an annual fee of £30 with assurances that its recommendations are comprehensive, impartial and not based on commission. Its smart, easy-to-use website quickly finds you the cheapest deal (a £100 saving for us) and, once you sign up, keeps checking every month, prompting you to 'flip' when you can save over £50.



### Look After My Bills

[lookaftermybills.com](http://lookaftermybills.com)

Famous for receiving a £120,00 investment on *Dragons' Den*, Look After My Bills is a fast and efficient way to switch energy providers. It's free to use, offers a 14-day cooling-off period after you switch and, if your



current tariff charges an exit fee, the site will wait until your contract ends before moving you. On the downside, it only recommends a single 'best' deal, based solely on the suppliers it earns commission from. Our search only appeared to cover 12 companies and the saving of £36 a year was easily beaten by other services in this group.

### WeFlip

[www.weflip.com](http://www.weflip.com)

Owned by GoCompare, WeFlip's chameleon mascot and promise to make energy switching less boring put a friendly face on "flipping" providers. Sadly, like many free services, it only searches the small number of suppliers who pay the site commission, and recommends a single tariff - in our case, saving just £35 a year. We like the single-page online form, but the negative reviews on Trustpilot, especially for customer service, give pause for thought.

