**South Dartmoor Community Energy**

**Homeowner Energy Crisis Strategy**

* Reduce energy usage. See SDCE energy saving tips
* Reduce any draughts with simple insulation tricks
* Check to see if you are eligible for any grants to improve home energy efficiencies
* Ensure you claim or receive all recent government grants that are available to you. See across
* If you have a smart meter, monitor usage & budget monthly
* Make sure your bills & meter readings are correct
* Endeavour to go into the winter with credit on your energy account
* Check what tariff you are on. If you are still fixed, then you could be saving but expect a big increase when it finishes
* Check the Martin Lewis website for money saving tips & sign up to his newsletter
* Watch for further energy support from the government
* If you need support, talk to South Dartmoor Community Energy - 0800 112 3044 or your other local community groups
* If you start building up energy debt, talk to your energy provider, they may have a grant scheme
* Maximise income, examine monthly bills
* Citizen Advice offer lots of help, support & useful information. Check out this link https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt/dealing-with-your-debts/check-if-you-can-increase-your-income/
* Check your tax code, it’s your responsibility to make sure it’s correct
* Use the Turn 2 Us benefit calculator to ensure that you claim all that you are entitled to <https://benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk/AboutYou>
* There are organisations out there who will help if you are struggling with debt such as Citizen Advice, Turn 2 Us, National Debt Line & Stepchange Debt Charity. Check out this link for other organisations <https://www.uswitch.com/debt-help/debt-advice-companies/>
* See across for current government grants to support during the cost-of-living crisis

**Contact South Dartmoor Community Energy for free and impartial energy advice**

**0800 112 3044** **advice@sdce.org.uk** **www.sdce.org.uk**

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The Government recently announced a range of measures to help us through the cost-of-living crisis & we are sure more will be announced in the near future

You may not be eligible for all sections but there should be support there for you.  If you have any questions, please let us know

* £150 rebate for households in an A – D council band bracket (Being paid back now)
* £400 non-repayable rebate covering all households that is being credited back via electric bills
* £650 Cost of living payment for those on benefits, paid 50% in July/ 50% in October
* £300 Pensioner cost of living payment.  Top-up to Winter Fuel Payments in Nov/ Dec
* £150 Disability cost of living Payment
* Winter Fuel Payments - £200 for state pension age/ £300 if over 80.
* Warm Home Discount – Possible £140 discount if you pay the same Gas/ Electricity supplier.  You need to be on Guaranteed Pension Credit or Low Income

**Remember………Don’t struggle by yourself, just talking to someone can help!**

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