

Did you know?

Most electricity discounts only last 12 months — many households are paying more than they need to without realising it.

Completed all the steps? Record your new tariff here:

Supplier:	
Unit rate:	
Standing (+ admin) charge:	
Contract end date:	

Choosing a Better Electricity Tariff



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Choosing the right electricity tariff can save you hundreds of euro a year without changing how much energy you use.

This short guide will help you to compare electricity plans with confidence

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Step 1 Record Your Current Tariff

Before comparing plans, take 5 minutes to check your current tariff. You'll find this information on your electricity bill or online account.

Supplier:	
Unit rate:	
Standing (+ admin) charge:	
Contract end date:	

Step 2 Consider your use patterns

There's no single "best" electricity tariff — the right one depends on how and when you use electricity. Here are some examples of tariff that different households may choose based on their home usage patterns.

Most households

- Standard 24-hour tariff
- Same price all day and night
- Best if your electricity use is spread evenly

Homes with an electric vehicle

- EV or Smart Night tariff
- Much cheaper electricity at night
- Ideal for overnight EV charging

Homes with solar panels & a battery

- Often benefit from EV-style night tariffs
- Can store cheap night electricity

Homes mainly at home on weekends

- Free or discounted weekend plans
- Check rates carefully — weekday rates can be higher

Always compare: unit rate + standing charge + welcome credit

Step 3 Compare and Switch

The next step is to compare what's available. There are two good ways to do this — choose the one that suits you best.

Option 1: The Easiest Way

Use a trusted comparison website, e.g.

- Switcher.ie
- Bonkers.ie

How it works:

- Enter a few details about your home and electricity use
- The website compares current offers from electricity suppliers
- You can see estimated annual costs and discounts
- You can switch supplier directly online

Why this works well:

- Quick and easy (usually 10 minutes)
- Shows up-to-date offers and welcome discounts
- No paperwork — your new supplier handles the switch

Good to know:

- Estimates are based on average usage, not your exact habits
- Always check both the unit rate and the standing charge

Option 2: The Most Accurate Way

If you have a Smart Meter, you can use your real electricity data to find the best tariff for how you actually use electricity.

Step 1: Download your usage data

- Go to ESB Networks
- Log in or create an account
- Download your electricity usage data (generated by your Smart Meter)

Step 2: Upload your data to EnergyPal.ie

- Go to www.energypal.ie
- Upload the file you downloaded
- EnergyPal analyses your usage pattern

Step 3: Get personalised tariff recommendations

- See which tariffs best suit your household based on your actual usage patterns
- Compare standard, smart, EV, and night-rate plans

Why this option is powerful:

- Much more accurate than estimates
- Helps avoid tariffs that look cheap but don't suit your usage

Stay on Track

- Review your tariff once a year — discounts usually end after 12 months
- In addition to choosing the right tariff, look at adopting energy saving habits at home to make significant savings on your electricity bill.