



# energy retail association

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## Smart Meters and Electricity Display Devices

Fact Sheet

[www.energy-retail.org.uk/smartmeters](http://www.energy-retail.org.uk/smartmeters)

### What are Smart Meters?

Smart Meters are the next generation of electricity and gas meters which will bring about the end of estimated bills and meter readings, and provide customers and energy suppliers with accurate information on the amount of electricity and gas being used. They will also provide the platform for the development of a much greater choice in energy tariffs and services for homes across the country.

### What are Electricity Display Devices?

Electricity Display Devices are clip-on devices that provide customers with information on the amount of electricity being used. Meter readings and estimated bills will still be required.

### When will Smart Meters be installed in homes in the UK?

If the Government provides the mandate for the roll-out of this new technology then the industry plans to replace all existing gas and electricity meters across the country with Smart Meters within ten years. This would involve the biggest home visit programme ever seen in this country as 45 million meters will need to be replaced.





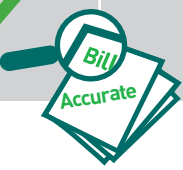
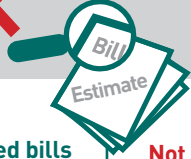
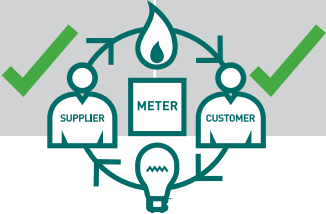
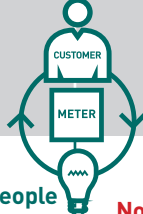


## What are the benefits of Smart Meters?

- Smart Meters will offer accurate real-time information on the amount of gas and electricity being used
- Smart Meters can communicate between the supplier and the consumer which will mean that bills will be accurate and will bring an end to estimated billing
- Consumers can see the amount of energy they are using in an easily understandable format and therefore can change the way they use energy in the home
- Smart Meters will support microgeneration which means generating low carbon energy at home
- Smart Meters will allow for a huge variety and sophistication of electricity and gas tariffs
- All Smart Meters will be installed by qualified engineers

“Smart Meters are the new generation of gas and electricity meters which have the potential to revolutionise the energy industry. I believe they are absolutely essential if consumers are to be offered greater control of their energy consumption.”

**Duncan Sedgwick, Chief Executive of the Energy Retail Association**

For more information: call ERA on 020 7930 9175 or see [www.energy-retail.org.uk/smartmeters](http://www.energy-retail.org.uk/smartmeters)

SMART METER		HOW DO THEY COMPARE?	ELECTRICITY DISPLAY DEVICE	
 ELECTRICITY	 GAS		 ELECTRICITY	 GAS
✓	✓	WHAT DOES IT DO?	✓	✗
Tells customer and company exactly how much electricity and gas is being used			Tells customer roughly how much electricity is being used	Not applicable
✓  ✓		IS IT ACCURATE?	✗  ✗	
Bills will be accurate – no more estimated bills			Estimated bills will remain	Not applicable
		WILL IT CHANGE PEOPLES' BEHAVIOUR?	✓ 	✗
Probably as people will be more in control of the energy they use			Possibly as people will be aware of the electricity they use	Not applicable
✓	✗	WILL IT ALLOW FOR MICROGENERATION?	✗	✗
Yes - Smart Meters will allow consumers to export back microgenerated power	Not applicable		No - as the meter system will be the same	
✓  ✓		WILL THERE BE ANY CHANGE IN TARIFF OPTIONS?	✗  ✗	
Yes – likely to be a huge increase in number of tariffs available			No - as the meter system will be the same	Not applicable
✓	✓	HOW WILL IT BE INSTALLED?	✓	✗
By a qualified engineer			By the customer (safety concerns)	Not applicable