



Could you make the switch and save?

Worried about rising energy costs? With continuing concern about the prospect of future energy price rises, and temperatures set to drop over the coming weeks, Gloucestershire County Council wants to support people to get a better deal.

The council is concerned about the impact that rises in energy prices have on Gloucestershire residents, particularly older people and those living in fuel poverty. That's why it is launching the Big Community Switch this week to help people get cheaper gas and electricity by working together.

The Big Community Switch is bulk buying – if a large number of people want to change supplier together they are likely to get a better deal than just one person shopping around and switching on their own.

And the more households that register their interest in switching, the more attractive it becomes for an energy supplier to offer a competitive price and the more likely consumers are to achieve significant savings.

Residents need to register their interest with the Big Community Switch in the next few weeks. You can do this either online at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bigcommunityswitch or by phoning the council on **01452 42 57 57** between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday (between 3rd September and 15th October). By doing this, you are under no obligation to switch supplier.

People only need to provide basic information at this stage: name, address, contact details, an indication of their energy consumption and whether they wish to consider switching for both gas and electricity or electricity only. It's a good idea to have a recent bill to hand as it makes registering easier and more accurate registration means a more accurate offer.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader, Gloucestershire County Council, said: "Switching energy supplier is often the best way to save money on your bills, but the process of applying can often put people off. That's why we are supporting this scheme and we hope as many people as possible will take part. All you need is a recent energy bill and the Big Community Switch will do the rest of the work and hopefully get you a better deal."

Residents who have registered their interest will receive a personalised energy offer during late October or early November. Although this is likely to be lower than their

current bills, there is no guarantee of this, but there is also no obligation to accept the offer and switch supplier. People only need to sign up to the scheme and make the switch if it works for them.

To take part in the scheme, you must register by 23:59 on Tuesday 15th October.

