

The biggest power bill of the year could be about to hit your inbox

Winter energy bills are beginning to arrive, and for many Australian households they will be among the largest bills they receive all year.

Months of heating and longer periods spent indoors can make bills covering the coldest part of the year significantly more expensive. For many households, the usual response is simply to grimace and pay.

Energy Rebate Check, a free service that checks which government energy rebates apply at any Australian postcode, says a large winter bill can also be the most useful bill to compare because it shows what a household consumes during its most expensive season. The service includes a free comparison tool built for exactly that job.

The tool allows households to photograph an electricity bill and have artificial intelligence read the usage and rate information before checking it against more than 8,000 energy plans from over 70 retailers.

“The worst time to discover you are on the wrong plan is immediately after paying the biggest bill of the year on it,” Energy Rebate Check founder Josh Liptak said.

“Your winter bill is a free health check. It shows your real usage when demand is at its highest. Two minutes and a photograph of the bill can show whether your energy plan is contributing to the problem.”

Customers who remain on the same energy plan for several years can gradually move onto less competitive rates, while many of the savings available in the market go to households that regularly compare.

“Switching sounds like a chore, but the new retailer handles the process,” Mr Liptak said.

“Nothing at your home changes. The electricity keeps flowing through the same wires. The only changes should be the retailer’s name on the bill and, hopefully, the amount you pay.”

The comparison tool is available at:

<https://energyrebatecheck.com.au/compare-energy-plans>

Households can compare by photographing a bill, uploading smart meter data or entering their energy usage manually.

Energy Rebate Check does not accept retailer commissions, meaning no retailer can pay to have its plans promoted in the rankings. Results are available without requiring an email address or telephone number.

The comparison tool sits alongside the service’s core offering, a postcode based rebate checker showing the state and federal energy rebates available at any Australian address. Small business electricity bills are also supported.

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