



Time Of Use Tariffs

A Guide To Saving On
Energy Bills In The UK

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POWERVAULT



As energy prices fluctuate and the demand for cleaner, more efficient electricity rises, UK households are looking for smarter ways to manage their consumption. One such way is through time-of-use (ToU) tariffs, which offer different rates at different times of day, instead of the standard variable rate tariff that most customers still use. In this article, we'll explain what time-of-use tariffs are, list and compare the current options available from different providers in the UK, and help you choose the right one for your needs.

WHAT ARE TIME-OF-USE TARIFFS?

Time-of-use tariffs charge different prices for electricity depending on the time of day. Typically, electricity is more expensive during "peak" hours - when demand is highest - and cheaper during "off-peak" hours - when fewer people are using power. This encourages users to shift their energy use to off-peak times, reducing pressure on the grid and lowering their electricity bills. Broadly speaking the peak time in the UK is 4-8pm on weekday evenings, and in winter months this creates particular strain on the grid when there is no solar power and often little wind.

The key to maximizing savings on a ToU tariff is to adjust your habits and use more electricity during off-peak hours. For example, running your dishwasher or washing machine, or charging your electric vehicle during the night when rates are lower can make a significant difference. However, if you have home battery storage you don't need to change your habits as you can store the off-peak electricity to use during peak times. These home energy management systems may or may not also be hooked up to solar panels, enabling even greater energy efficiency and green energy usage.



WHY CONSIDER A TIME-OF-USE TARIFF?

For households with technology - such as those with solar or home batteries, electric vehicles (EVs), or smart appliances - time-of-use tariffs offer a great way to save on energy costs. Additionally, by using more energy during times when renewable energy sources, such as wind or solar, are more abundant, you contribute to a greener energy grid.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT TIME-OF-USE TARIFF

Choosing the right time-of-use tariff depends on your household's energy consumption patterns, whether or not you have a storage battery, your lifestyle, and your ability to shift usage to off-peak times. Here are some factors to consider:



1. Your Energy Usage Habits

If you can easily move energy-intensive tasks like washing, cooking, or charging your EV to off-peak hours, a tariff with a significant price difference between peak and off-peak times will benefit you. However, if your schedule is less flexible, or you spend a lot of time at home during the day, you might want to consider tariffs with less extreme price variations.



2. Availability of Smart Meters

To benefit from time-of-use tariffs, you'll need a smart meter that can track your energy consumption in real time. Most providers offer free smart meter installation, so check with your energy supplier. You will need mobile coverage in your area to be eligible.



3. EV Ownership

Many time-of-use tariffs are tailored for EV owners who want to charge their vehicles overnight. Many offer deep discounts during nighttime hours.



4. Solar Battery Integration

If you have a solar battery system, you can charge your battery during off-peak hours and use the stored energy during peak times, maximising savings. Combining a time-of-use tariff with a solar battery system allows you to take even more control of your energy costs.



5. Green Energy

If sustainability is important to you, look for providers like Tomato Energy, Ecotricity, Good Energy or Octopus, which are 100% renewable energy providers.



KEY TIME-OF-USE TARIFFS AVAILABLE IN THE UK

1. Octopus Energy - Octopus Go/ Intelligent Go

Offers good rates on peak and off-peak electricity. The Octopus Intelligent Go tariff offers a rate of 7p from 11.30pm - 5.30am for EV owners using an approved charger.

2. Octopus Energy - Agile Octopus

Ideal for tech-savvy users with smart meters who want real-time savings and are comfortable adjusting their usage throughout the day. The pricing is adjusted every 30 minutes, and the off-peak rate can even be negative during periods of low demand. However, prices can spike (up to 100p/kWh) during peak times. Agile Octopus gives users live pricing updates, allowing them to optimise energy use in real-time, with the potential for significant savings.

3. EDF Energy - GoElectric 35

This tariff is designed with EV drivers in mind, offering the lowest off-peak rate (4.5p/kWh), with a 5 hour time window (12.30 am - 5.30 am).

4. British Gas - PeakSave

Offers one of the longest off-peak windows (9pm - 4pm, at a rate from 9p/kWh), ideal for those who are at home during the day, allowing for more flexibility in managing your energy usage.

5. OVO Energy - OVO Charge Anytime

Aimed at EV owners who want a simple tariff with consistent pricing throughout the day and night. There are no time restrictions - a flat rate of 20p/kWh and a specific EV charging rate of 7p/kWh. Note that this tariff does not permit charging up a home battery with low cost power because the low rate is only paid on the EV usage.



6. Tomato Energy - Green Saver Tariff

Tomato Energy focuses on sustainability with this tariff offering 100% green energy. Offers 3 separate off-peak periods with varying rates. Limited availability as Tomato is a smaller provider.

7. E.ON Next - Next Drive

E.ON's EV tariff offers a rate of 6.7p/kWh to charge your car, between 12-7 am.

8. Ecotricity Fixed EV Electricity

Renewable energy supplier Ecotricity is offering a 12-month fixed tariff, with competitive off-peak rates but a short (5 hour) window (12 - 5 am). You don't have to have an EV to access this tariff.

9. Good Energy EV Charge

Offers one of the most competitive rates (comparable to Octopus) and 100% renewable energy. You don't have to have an EV to access their 6.75p off-peak rate. Good Energy is a certified [B Corp](#).

ECONOMY 7 TARIFFS

Economy 7 is a type of time-of-use tariff widely available across the UK. It offers cheaper electricity for 7 hours at night and higher prices during the day. While not as flexible as modern smart tariffs, it remains popular for households with electric storage heaters or who can shift usage to nighttime.

- Day rate: Between 25p/kWh and 45p/kWh, depending on the provider.
- Night rate: Between 8p/kWh and 15p/kWh, depending on the provider.
- Ideal for: Homes with electric storage heating or those that can use appliances during off-peak night hours.
- Limitations: If the day rate and night rate are too close together, then these tariffs are not useful for home batteries. We recommend that the night time tariff should be at least 50% lower than the day time tariff. The bigger the gap between day and night time, the better.



HOW THEY COMPARE

Provider	Tariff	Green?	Peak Rate p/kWh	Off-peak Rate p/kWh	Peak Time	Off-peak Time	Best For
Octopus Energy	Octopus Go	100% renewable	~27p	From 7p	5:30 am – 12.30 am	12:30 am – 5:30 am	Night-time usage
Octopus Energy	Intelligent Octopus Go	100% renewable	~27p	From 7p	5:30 am – 11.30 pm	11:30 pm – 5:30 am	EV owners – offering 7p rate to charge your car between 11.30pm – 5.30am.
Octopus Energy	Agile Octopus	100% renewable	Dynamic (up to 35p+)	Below 0p	Varies	Varies	Real-time energy management
EDF Energy	GoElectric 35	This tariff is 100% nuclear but overall business is 20% green sources	35p	4.5p	5 am – 12 am	12 am – 5 am	EV owners
British Gas	PeakSave	20% green sources	34p	From 9p	4 pm – 9 pm	9 pm – 4 pm	Flexible, off-peak during most of the day
OVO Energy	OVO Charge Anytime	This tariff is 100% renewable but the business is 20% green sources	20p (flat rate). 7p flat rate for EV charging	N/A	N/A	N/A	EV owners – offering 7p rate at any time of day
Tomato Energy	Lifestyle EV	100% renewable	23p	5p (12-6am), 13p (10 am – 12pm, 10 pm – 12 am)	6 am – 10 am, 12 pm – 10pm	12 am – 6 am; 10 pm – 12 am	100% renewable energy, off-peak users
E.ON Next	Next Drive	100% renewable for this tariff, but 40% green overall	24.5p	6.7p	7 am – 12 am	12 am – 7 am	EV owners
Ecotricity	Fixed EV Electricity	100% renewable	30p	8p	5 am – 12 am	12 am – 5 am	100% renewable energy, off-peak users
Good Energy	EV Charge	100% renewable	30p	6.75p	5 am – 12 am	12 am – 5 am	100% renewable energy, off-peak users
Various Providers	Economy 7	Depends on provider	25p – 45p	8p – 15p	Daytime (varies)	7 hours at night (varies)	Homes with electric storage heaters

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OUR OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

Best for Solar Batteries	Best for EV Owners	Best for Off-Peak Usage
 <p>Octopus Agile (provided you have a smart energy management system such as <u>Powervault SMARTSTOR™</u>), Octopus Go, Good Energy EV Charge, Ecotricity Fixed EV</p>	 <p>Octopus Intelligent Go, EDF GoElectric 35, Ovo Charge Anytime, Good Energy EV Charge, e.on Next Drive</p>	 <p>Octopus Go, Good Energy EV Charge, Ecotricity Fixed EV</p>

Best for Green Energy	Best for Daytime Usage
 <p>Tomato Energy, Octopus Energy tariffs, Good Energy and Ecotricity</p>	 <p>British Gas PeakSave</p>



CONCLUSION

Time-of-use tariffs are an excellent option for households looking to lower their energy bills, especially for those with EVs, solar batteries, or flexible energy consumption habits. By selecting the right tariff for your lifestyle, you can take advantage of cheaper off-peak rates and contribute to a more sustainable energy grid. Be sure to monitor your usage and adjust your habits to make the most of these flexible plans.

If you're considering switching to a time-of-use tariff, Powervault can help you integrate solar batteries into your home energy system, allowing you to store cheap off-peak electricity for use during peak times. Not only that, but our proprietary software SMARTSTOR™ can schedule your battery for you, based on the schedule of your time-of-use tariff, your energy usage patterns, and the weather forecast. Contact us today to find out how we can help you optimise your energy usage and reduce your costs.