



# SURVIVING WINTER

2022



**LYNX**  
**PURCHASING**  
Saving your business money every day

A Seven Habits guide to managing energy costs for hospitality business owners.



# What you can do to help combat **rising energy costs**

Wholesale gas and electricity prices have increased sharply, almost doubling over the past year - and that trend continues.

There are several causes but the main ones are: increased global demand caused by economies coming out of lockdown; interruption to electrical supply between Europe and the UK because of fire damage; and political concerns over the gas supply from Russia.

The timing couldn't be worse for the hospitality industry, already badly bruised by Covid and Brexit-induced cost increases as a result of labour shortages and supply chain issues.

However, there are things you can do to help your business get through the tough winter months.

Our Seven Habits Guide to Surviving Winter 2022 offers practical tips and advice for managing energy costs for winter and beyond from our expert, Peter Dancer of Scottish Utilities, a long standing partner of Lynx Purchasing.

**2021 average price** - around **£60/Mwh** wholesale electricity

**2021 peak price** - **£190/Mwh** wholesale electricity

**2022 price** - **£110-£120/Mwh** wholesale electricity

**2021 summer price** - **£1.15p per therm gas** - up **60p** per therm.



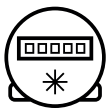
## 1. THE DEVIL'S IN THE DETAIL

Take a good walk around your establishment and make detailed notes of areas where you could be wasting energy. Make sure that anything that doesn't need to be on is switched off. Look at ventilation and areas where you may be losing heat where you don't want to. For example, keep exterior doors closed when possible and fit them with auto close devices.



## 2. CHALLENGE HABITUAL BEHAVIOUR

Consider what you and your staff habitually do now and how you could change this to cut energy consumption. For example, if you have a meter with a night rate, think about what appliances could be run overnight rather than during the day to take advantage of cheaper rates. Appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines and laundry dryers could be programmed to run at night or switched on with a timer. Do you leave ovens on all day? If you do, set up a schedule to switch them off and on between services. What about water heaters? If you are leaving them on all night, turn them off and make switching them on the first task of the early shift staff. A thorough review of current practices - especially how you use your big power guzzlers could save the business a lot of money.



## 3. REVIEW EVERY BUDGET

Get your team onboard! Explain the situation to your staff, particularly management. Get every department involved, invite and encourage suggestions from your team to reduce energy consumption in every area of the business across all budgets. Consider fitting card meters in staff accommodation and giving out a limited amount of free cards to employees. This stops them switching on a radiator if they are cold then leaving it on while they are out of their accommodation. Gas and electricity for staff accommodation, laundry etc should be charged at 5% - make sure you claim!



## 4. STOP CONTRACT ROLLOVERS

Now is the time to plan ahead. Take a good look at the energy agreement you have in place and check when it runs out. The sooner you start looking for a new deal, the longer you have to make sure you get the best one available. Be wary of accepting 'Too good to be true' offers and only accept 'Fully fixed, fully inclusive' offers for gas and electricity. They are a little more expensive initially, but are cheaper in the long term. Always avoid 'Pass through' deals.



## 5. EVERYTHING IS REPLACEABLE

Start by replacing all bulbs with energy-efficient LED lights. Think about fitting motion sensor lights to rooms where lights don't need to be on 24-7 such as toilets, store-rooms, staff corridors and function rooms.



## 6. QUALITY & VALUE FIRST

Just because a product is presented to you as 'green' don't assume it is energy efficient or a money saver. Check company credentials, customer reviews and ask for third party verification of any efficiency claims before you buy. There may be a better quality, better value product or solution to control energy consumption out there.



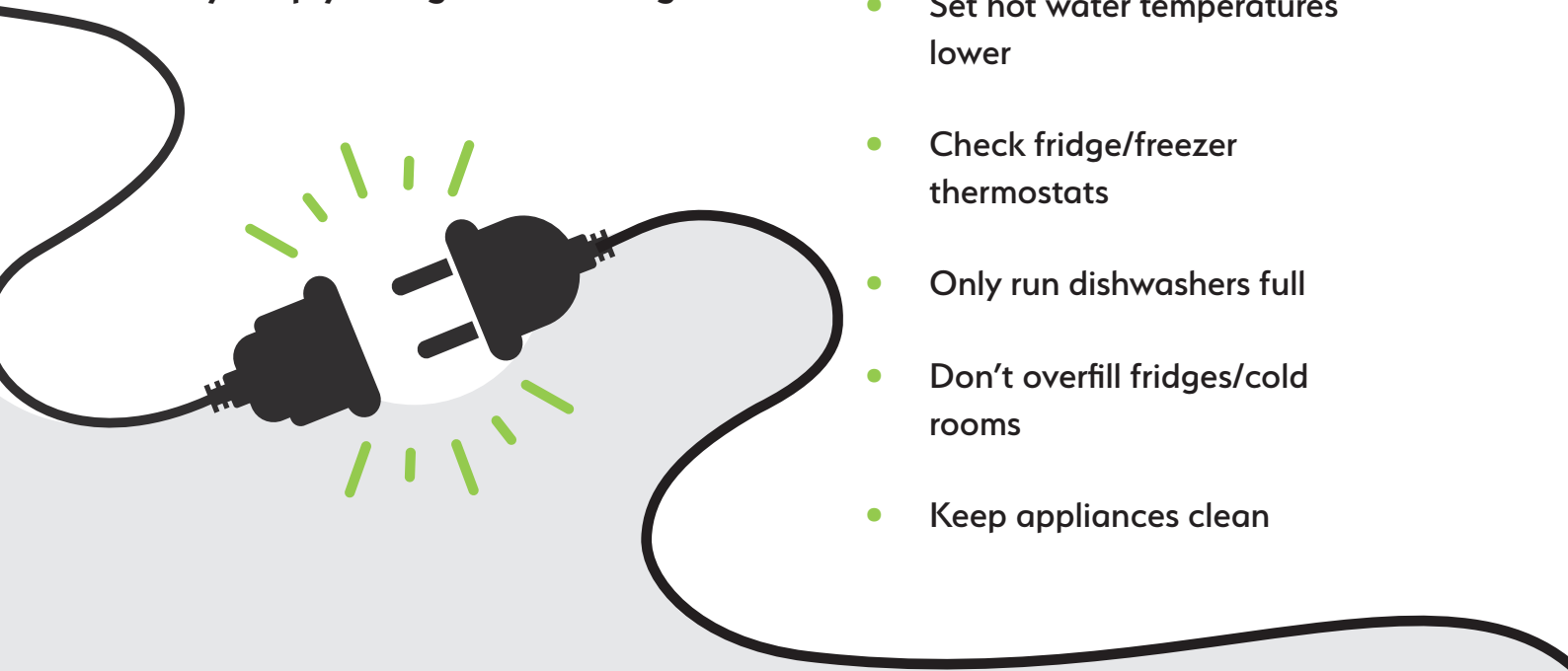
## 7. REVIEW YOUR SUPPLIERS

Are your suppliers and service engineers thinking about your energy usage? Ask them for advice and recommendations - and consider changing them if they aren't proactive. Check out your gas or oil boilers. Are they modern and energy efficient - old boilers and old appliances in general tend to use more fuel. Good maintenance will pay for itself many times over so make sure they are regularly serviced too. Get your insulation checked by a professional: 50mm may have been sufficient 20 years ago but it isn't enough now whereas 200mm of insulation will save you a great deal of money. And make sure all hot water pipes are insulated. If you have log fires for guests, make them work harder and heat water at the same time. Speak to your plumber or heating engineer who can assist with this.

# CHEAPEST 'NO COST' SAVINGS

You can cut your energy bills now without any investment by simply doing the following:

- Switch it off - if you can
- Close doors - especially exterior ones
- Adjust heating thermostats
- Lower temperatures for laundry - washers/dryers
- Set hot water temperatures lower
- Check fridge/freezer thermostats
- Only run dishwashers full
- Don't overfill fridges/cold rooms
- Keep appliances clean



## Get in touch

Act now and you can save a winter's worth of money plus reap long term benefits for your business, saving money every year. If you'd like to find out more about saving money on your gas and electricity bills, call Lynx Purchasing on **01325 710143** or email us at **hello@lynxpurchasing.co.uk**



Lynx Purchasing works with more than 2,200 accounts in the hospitality and catering sector, on a no-membership and no-contract basis that offers like-for-like products at lower prices and often better quality than operators could obtain by negotiating alone.

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