

GOVERNMENT SETS NEW POLICY FOR ENERGY MONITORS

The Government shows real commitment to save energy and empower UK consumers.

In mid 2007, the Government announced a policy to provide home display units free of charge to all households. This policy was announced jointly by Alistair Darling and David Milliband, announced again in the Energy White Paper and now forms part of the BERR consultation document on billing and metering.

Today the Government set out its policy to make this reality.

This means that every household in Britain from June 2008 can request a free Real Time Display unit from their electricity supplier. These monitors have a simple clip which fits around the meter cable and allows households to see how much electricity they are using and more importantly, how much this is costing them.

The Current Cost monitors are highly accurate and empower the user to make informed decisions on their energy usage. This in turn influences their behaviour and will have a true impact on saving energy.

The Current Cost real-time display is inexpensive, effective and ready to roll out now.

The pay-back period for Real Time Displays is short and a lot of carbon can be saved instantly. More than a million tonnes of carbon could be saved by the provision of real-time displays before smart meters are rolled out. (Assuming a 0.2 MtC saving per annum in line with EWP figures.)

A real-time display empowers the home owner with real time accurate information such as the cost of leaving appliances on standby or lights on in rooms not being used etc. This has shown to be the most effective way of changing behaviour therefore allowing the British Consumer to start making a difference to the nation immediately.

It's important to note that as a nation if we reduce our consumption by just 2-3% we save one Power Station from being built.

A real-time electricity display has been shown, in various studies, to provide significant savings and BERR analysis suggests that the net benefits to the UK of its policy is between £365m and £1.1bn in what it calls 'the central case'. So, the policy is clearly a very cost effective one in reducing CO₂.

With cutting edge manufacturers such as Current Cost, the UK is leading the world in the development of real-time displays and better information for customers to save CO₂.

With active support for the government's policy the UK can demonstrate to other countries the importance of real-time information and get them to adopt metering programmes which maximise the benefits for the environment and not just for the energy suppliers.

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Images available on request as are products to trial.

Notes to Editors

Current Cost first came to fruition in 2004 and has partnerships with the government, the EU, leading utility companies and NGOs across the UK.

The first currentcost display The Classic is still in production and has sold over 400,000 units.