

## 35686 Rising Energy Costs

Have your authority's electricity and gas bills increased since July 2021?

No. In relation to the City of Edinburgh Council's Street Lighting, the rate for energy consumed is on a fixed tariff for 2021/22.

Otherwise, the Council are on a fixed rate until April 2022. There will be a reconciliation next year as we redress the balance from our flexible purchasing strategy in 2021/22; however, the majority of the volumes were secured prior to the start of the 2021/22 financial year. The purchasing is managed on our behalf by the Scottish Government.

If so, by roughly how much?

As above, there has been no change. Significant increases are forecast in financial year 2022/23.

Is this increase due to a higher rate per unit of gas and electricity charged by your energy provider, or for another reason?

As above, there has been no change. For supplies contracted to the Council's central electricity and gas contracts (accessed through an agency agreement with the Scottish Government) the Scottish Government purchases electricity and gas based on an agreed risk management strategy. This reduces exposure to short-term trends. However, given the significance of recent price increases, the wholesale of gas/electricity will be the primary reason for increased costs in 2022/23.

Have you made any reductions to the provision of street lighting in your area since July 2021, or are you planning any reductions? Please specify the changes, if so.

No

If yes, is this because energy bills have risen?

Not applicable.

Have you made any reductions to the provision of lighting or heating in any of your buildings, or are you planning any reductions? Please specify the changes, if so.

Yes. We carry out a range of works across our operational estate, including upgrades to plant, equipment, fabric, etc. We also make efficiency savings where possible.

However, where buildings are operational, and due to ventilation being a primary means of mitigation against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, we are seeing more space heating demand. If you require specific details of changes to lighting and heating across specific buildings in the Council estate, then we may be able to provide information if you indicate which buildings you are interested in.

If yes, is this because energy bills have risen?

The cost of energy does have a bearing on any works that are undertaken. However, and in addition, the Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions across its estate and therefore this is also a primary driver.