

*For immediate release*

NEWS RELEASE

## Wholesale price rises drive up Utilita tariffs

Further to recent rapid changes in the wholesale cost of gas, electricity and oil, Utilita has been obliged to raise its retail energy prices with effect from 1st February 2008.

Utilita has always tried to avoid sharing the impact of these fluctuations, but it can no longer absorb all the recent market pressures. Prices to customers will rise therefore by 15.0% for gas and by 10% (on average) for electricity. These rises are less than those already announced by Npower and, once all suppliers make similar changes, Utilita is confident its tariffs will remain competitive.

Utilita continues to offer every customer practical help to reduce their energy consumption permanently (through free energy saving light bulbs, realistic energy saving advice and a unique planetpoints energy saving reward scheme that can pay for improvements such as loft insulation).

Utilita customers also benefit from a clear single statement for gas and electricity, a 'positive customer experience' from speaking with dedicated staff in Winchester, and the convenience of paying by monthly Direct Debit.

ENDS

For media queries and interview requests please contact Hannah Pearce at Zintl Associates, email: [zintl@gn.apc.org](mailto:zintl@gn.apc.org), Tel. 0207 263 0678

Notes to Editors

[1] In line with regulatory rules, all customers (on 28-day or 12-month contracts) may choose to switch to another supplier within 14 days of receiving their price change notification.

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[2] Customers can see all Utilita tariffs at <[www.utilita.co.uk](http://www.utilita.co.uk)> or may contact Jim Garrett, on 0845 450 4117 [jimgarrett@utilita.co.uk](mailto:jimgarrett@utilita.co.uk)

[3] Utilita ([www.utilita.co.uk](http://www.utilita.co.uk)) is the only small domestic supplier (fully licenced by Ofgem) trading in the UK market. It is also the first - and to date the only - domestic energy supply company in the UK to offer an *energy services contract* requiring no additional customer contribution.

[4] All Utilita tariffs make it possible for any customer to curb their domestic greenhouse gas emissions permanently and to reduce their energy bills at the same time. Utilita estimates that over a three year period most customers will be able to pay for energy saving measures like loft and cavity wall insulation using their planetpoints.

[5] Utilita is also working to install smart meters more widely than has been done before, particularly to support the provision of fair-priced prepayment tariffs that levy no price premium.