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Press Release

## Utilita rejects money-wasting smart metering trial

Responding to John Hutton's announcement on 12 July about the government's smart metering trial, David Casale, CEO of energy services company Utilita said:

"Ofgem doesn't get it. We don't need a new two year research project to prove the value or efficacy of a smart meter. Firm evidence and hard fact about their benefits has been available for the better part of two decades, not least from countries such as Northern Ireland where they are already routinely used.

"In its bid to participate in this trial, Utilita proposed to install 50,000 smart meters for the same amount of public money that will now see only 15,000 homes get these devices. Another 8,000 households will get a clip on monitor - which is NOT a smart meter (and ignores gas) - and the other 17,000 look set to get precious little.

"It is doubly disappointing that the government has signed up only large incumbent energy suppliers to conduct this trial. These companies have a well-known reluctance to embrace modern metering and should be doing this work in any case as part of their commitments to customers.

"It would have cost far less per meter had Ofgem seen the merits of turning to a smaller, lean and pioneering supplier like ourselves that's already installing smart meters for domestic customers while offering better billing and free energy efficiency gear."

"Utilita intends to outstrip the trial both in terms of the numbers of smart meters it installs, and the changes in customer habits that will result from the arrival of privately funded smart meters in the homes of its consumers."

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Editors Notes

[1] On 12 July, Business and Enterprise Secretary John Hutton announced details of a two year trial of smart metering and other devices, managed by Ofgem on behalf of the Department for Business. The four energy companies taking part in the trials are EDF Energy, E.ON UK, Scottish & Southern Energy and Scottish Power

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[2] In 2004 Utilita became the first domestic energy supply company in the UK to offer an energy services contract requiring no an additional customer investment or contribution. It is still the only one pursuing this approach. Utilita is also the only small domestic supplier fully licenced by Ofgem still left in the UK market.

[3] All Utilita tariffs make it possible for any customer to curb their domestic greenhouse gas emissions and reduce their energy bills at the same time.

- **Planetsaver** is the UK's first carbon neutral dual-fuel home energy tariff offered to domestic customers in the UK (CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from gas consumed are offset with Climate Care ([www.climatecare.org](http://www.climatecare.org)), electricity is sourced from 100% renewable projects in the UK and customers receive a comprehensive, free, energy Home MOT).

- **Energysaverplus** and **Energysaver** also help every customer reduce the carbon emissions from their homes and save money by installing energy saving gear in their homes, though these tariffs are not carbon neutral.

[4] 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)

[5] A full media advisory providing background on Utilita and its tariffs is available at <http://www.utilita.co.uk/press.htm>