Appendix 5 – Types of Energy Meters

Types of Energy Meters

It is important to be able to identify the different types of energy meters to ensure that accurate readings are taken.

The type of meters used will vary from premise to premise and this will also mean that the process of reading a meter will also differ. The following will explain the different types of Energy meters that maybe in use and will later explain how to read them/ The Electricity Guide.org (2008) identify three common electricity meters in use in buildings:

- **Standard meters**
- **Variable rate meters**

The differences between these meters is outlined below:

Meter Type	Rate	Example
Standard meters	Measures in terms of Kilowatt-hours All electricity units are charged at the same rate 24 hours a day	
Variable rate meters (Economy 7 meters)	Measures in terms of Kilowatt hours. Two readings taken, - Daytime and - Nighttime Electricity is usually charged at two different rates. Night charges are usually charged at cheaper rates.	

N.B. Definition, Killowatt-hour (kWh): The amount of energy used by a load of one kilowatt over the period of one hour

Data sourced from: energywatch.org (2008)

Gas Meter Types

Meter Type	Rate	Example
Credit meters	Gas consumption measured in units. Units can be multiplied by 31.1 to convert approximately to kilowatt hours. (breakdown will appear on a gas bill) Quarterly bills are sent to customers. Gas readings usually occur every six months, and an estimated bill will be sent when meters are failed to be read.	

Data sourced from: energywatch.org (2008)

N.B. all meters will have a **Meter Point Reference Number (MPRN)** which is individual to each meter. This is usually a ten digit number located on the meter. This number is important for taking meter readings and for locating individual meters.

Reading an Energy Meter

Electricity Digital

- To read a single rate digital meter, simply write down the numbers shown from left to right.
- Make sure to write down any zeros, including any at the start of the reading. Ignore any red figures.
- To find out how many units you have used since your last reading, subtract the previous reading from the new one.

Electricity Digital (2 Rate)

You may have two rows of figures if your electricity is supplied on a Variable Rate Meter Tariff.

Always check both rows of figures when you read this meter:

- One row is for the lower priced night-rate electricity - it is marked LOW.

- The other is for the day rate - it is marked NORMAL.

Electricity Digital (Dial)

Dial Meters can vary in appearance. The dials next to each other go round in opposite directions.

- Always write down the number which the pointer has just passed – this is not necessarily the nearest number to the pointer.
- If the pointer is anywhere between, say, 4 and 5, write down 4. If the pointer is directly over the number, say 5, write that number down.

Reading your Gas Meter

Gas Digital

To read a digital type meter, use only the white figures. Ignore any numbers after a decimal point or any numbers in red. To get the amount of gas you have used, take away the previous reading from the new one.
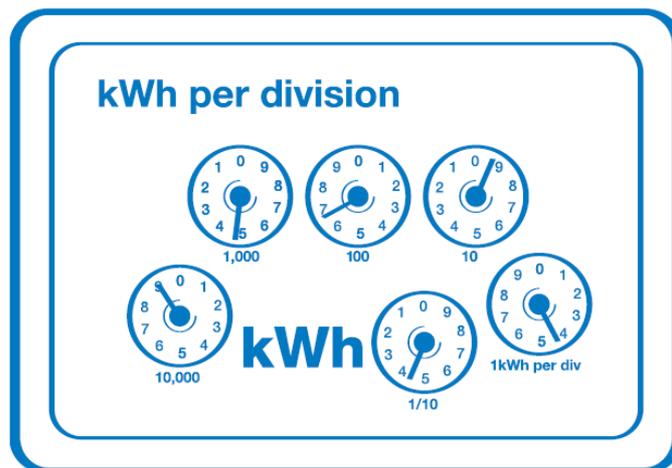
Gas Dial (Clock)

Different dial meters can sometimes vary in appearance. By carefully using the tips below and practicing, reading your meter becomes very easy.

Ignore the dials marked 100 per rev, the large dial and the red dials. Read the other dials from left to right and write down the number that the hand has passed.

When reading your dial meter, always remember that dials next to each other go round in opposite directions.

Data sourced from: Scottish Power.co.uk (2008)

For further information on reading a meter please contact your local energy supplier.