

How to get free electricity in the UK

I know what you're thinking: what is this ridiculous clickbait headline all about? Well, a couple of weekends ago, I charged my electric car, cooked lunch in my oven, and washed my clothes totally for free over a few hours. Last weekend, my electricity cost less than 8p per kWh to do the same thing. On average, I'm currently saving 40 percent on my electricity bills compared to the extortionate capped rate that most people in the UK are forced to pay right now.

So, how? Octopus Energy, and I want everyone to know about it.

I've obsessed over my electricity usage over the past few months thanks to a mix of the UK's energy market prices and buying a new electric vehicle. A friend recommended Octopus Energy's Agile contract, which provides variable pricing every 30 minutes based on wholesale rates. He had been using it all winter with big savings, as wholesale electricity prices have started to drop in the UK in recent months. In 2023, Octopus' Agile prices have dropped far below the Energy Price Guarantee subsidy that the UK government introduced to cap the maximum consumer prices for electricity after wholesale prices surged following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Octopus Energy issues its 30-minute rates every day at 4PM so you can see when the best times are to use your dishwasher, washing machine, oven, or charge an electric car. Peak rates between 4PM and 7PM are typically the usual rates of 34p or even 35p per kWh, but outside of those times, it has averaged at around 20p per kWh in recent months for me personally.

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underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13
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Energy Agile over the past 365 days in the East Midlands.
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underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13
dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63">Today's rates on the
Octopus Watch app for iOS.