



## PRESS RELEASE

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### WHEN EVEN STUDENTS CAN SAVE MONEY!

**Middlesex, October 2007** – Probably the last thing on a student's mind is saving energy. But having more money in their pockets, that's a different matter.

As students start up the new academic year, moving into student digs and paying for electricity and gas often comes as a rude shock. gas-elec, the gas and electrical safety inspectors, who inspect 120,000 properties including student accommodation, throughout the UK each year, offer tips to students for saving themselves money – and energy.

Follow these simple ways, they say, and students could cut their bills by up to 30%. Now, how many extra nights out does that add up to?

- Ask everyone in the house or flat to fit a low-energy light bulb. Each one saves £9 a year. If everyone in the country fitted three, the energy saved would light all the street lamps in the UK!
- When you've charged your mobile phone or iPod, take out the plug or turn it off at the socket. Otherwise it's still drawing current. We only need about 5% of the energy we actually use to charge phones, 95% is just wasted.
- Turn all appliances off – don't leave them on standby which uses up to 85% electricity. This includes computers, televisions, stereos, DVD players, and VCRs. Put a piece of tape over the standby button to remind you.
- Don't leave the microwave on. Permanently displaying the clock can cost you more in electricity than you actually use for cooking.
- Turn the light off when you leave the room. Lighting accounts for 10 to 15% of a household's bills. Cutting out one hour a day from a normal 60 watt light bulb will save enough to power your TV for a month.
- Heating an empty property whilst at lectures? Set the timer to come on half an hour before you leave and half an hour before you arrive.

- Or heating the garden? Don't open the window if it's too hot. Turning the thermostat down by 1% will save about £50 a year.
- Making a cuppa for that late night studying? Use only as much water as you need. And use the kettle to provide hot water for cooking – it costs half as much as boiling it in a saucepan.
- Have a shower instead of a bath – it uses two thirds less electricity. But not power showers which use more!
- Check the gas boiler has been serviced. Landlords are required by law to service the gas boiler every year and display the certificate. A well maintained boiler saves energy, money – and lives.
- Going online? If you're choosing a computer, then a laptop uses far less energy than a desktop.
- Downloading music? If you're not in the room, turn off the monitor. It saves 8% of the electricity.
- Lobby your landlord to install energy saving measures such as cavity wall insulation. It's your money he's spending.

For more information call your local gas-elec office on 0800 587 9999, or go to [www.gas-elec.co.uk](http://www.gas-elec.co.uk).

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### Editor's Notes

Founded in 1996, **gas-elec** carries out impartial safety inspections and light remedial works. Its unique inspection service provides the residential lettings market with multiple inspections of the gas and electrics in just one visit. **gas-elec** has over 126 franchisees operating from 18 regional offices, who this year will carry out more than 120,000 safety inspections in domestic properties throughout the UK. For more information visit [www.gas-elec.co.uk](http://www.gas-elec.co.uk).

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Issued by: gas-*elec* Safety Systems  
Contact: Pauline Chandler  
PR & Marketing Manager  
Tel: 01892 782068  
Email: [pauline.chandler@gas-elec.co.uk](mailto:pauline.chandler@gas-elec.co.uk)