

Money with eco buys

our bills with these clever energy-saving gadgets

❖ For where to buy items in this feature, see page 163

It's easier than ever to save money. We asked Helen Keppel-Compton, Head of Consumer Technology at John Lewis, for her top buys.

We all want to cut our bills and save energy, but it's hard to know which 'eco' gadgets will really help. Using more efficient appliances such as energy-saving kettles can have a big impact, as can devices that monitor your electricity usage (check out the Wattson unit, right). If you often leave your appliances on stand-by, look out for the Bye Bye Standby (£17.99, Amazon.co.uk), which plugs into your sockets and turns off several devices at the mains with a single button. Little changes all add up to make a huge difference, both to your pocket and the environment.



Cut down on water

ECO SHOWER METER, ETHICAL SUPERSTORE

We each use about 150ltr of water a day, with showers accounting for up to one third of the water used in our homes. This simple device helps you cut down by telling you when the 35ltr per shower recommended by Waterwise has been used.



Keep track of electricity costs

WATTSON, FIREBOX.COM

Clip the transceiver of this wireless gadget to the wire between your meter and fuse box and it will display a running total of the energy you're using, in watts or pounds sterling. Then turn off a device and watch as the counter comes down.



Make a cheap cuppa

PHILIPS HD4687 TEMPERATURE-CONTROL KETTLE, JOHN LEWIS

With this sleek cordless eco kettle you can choose between four temperature settings: 40°C, 60°C, 80°C and 100°C. A keep-warm function means you don't have to reboil if you get distracted before you've poured, saving you money and electricity.



GOOD TO KNOW

Green tea is best made with water that's 80°C, while black tea should be brewed with 100°C boiling water

£69.99

Recharge your batteries

UNIROSS POM BATTERY CHARGER, AMAZON.CO.UK

The Pom can recharge eight AA or AAA batteries at a time, so there's no need to keep buying disposables – good news for your wallet and the environment. It can also charge devices such as MP3 players, mobile phones and PDAs via a USB port.

Charge your devices for free

“Once fully charged, this nifty gadget can power mobile phones, iPods and most digital cameras using solar energy”

Helen's best technology buy: Freeloader solar charger, John Lewis

£29

