



# **Your Home, Your Energy**

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### **Information & Engagement Package – EN**

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Every1 can contribute to the energy transition



## About EVERY1



**Every1** project sets the goal of delivering an impactful concept that includes all elements needed to enable an effective participation of all European stakeholders in the digital energy market. The project starts with a deep, data-informed understanding of stakeholders and ecosystems to map who they are, what they know, how they use information and where they look for it. Similarly, existing and emerging solutions will be assessed and validated, and use cases will serve to understand what stakeholders need to know in order to take on a role that matches their potential. This gap is used to develop learning pathways that lead to the identification of the needed capacity building material. In parallel, Every1 works on making a market by exchanging best practices with policy makers and energy regulators, enabling discussions on barriers, and developing joint communication material for their peers.

Want to dive deeper into the digital energy transition? Scan the QR code below or visit the EVERY1 project website at <https://every1.energy/> for resources, case studies, and insights on how you can play a role in shaping a clean energy future.



# 1. Smart Meters



## What is a smart meter?

A smart meter is a digital device that replaces your traditional electricity meter, providing real-time energy usage data and eliminating estimated bills.

## What are the benefits of a smart meter?

Smart meters offer accurate billing, help identify energy-consuming appliances, allow participation in time-of-use tariffs and demand response programs, and promote energy-saving behaviours.

## How can I get a smart meter installed?

Contact your energy provider to inquire about availability and installation options.

## Is my data safe with a smart meter?

Yes, smart meters adhere to strict data protection regulations like GDPR, and you have control over your data access and privacy settings.

## How often does my smart meter send data to my energy provider?

The frequency of data transmission varies depending on your energy provider and the type of smart meter installed. Some meters send data hourly, while others may send it daily or even less frequently. You can typically adjust the frequency of data transmission through your smart meter's settings or by contacting your energy provider.

## Can I still switch energy providers if I have a smart meter?

Yes, you can still switch energy providers even if you have a smart meter installed. The smart meter is compatible with most energy providers, and the data it collects can be easily transferred to your new provider.

## 2. Energy Efficiency



### What is energy efficiency?

Energy efficiency means using less energy to achieve the same tasks, leading to cost savings and a reduced environmental impact.

### How can I improve my home's energy efficiency?

Conduct an energy audit, upgrade to energy-efficient appliances, improve insulation and air sealing, switch to LED lighting, and adopt smart thermostats.

### Are there financial incentives for energy-efficient upgrades?

Yes, explore available rebates, tax credits, or financing options to help offset costs.

### What are some simple energy-saving habits I can adopt at home?

Some easy ways to save energy at home include turning off lights when leaving a room, unplugging electronics when not in use, using energy-efficient appliances, washing clothes in cold water, taking shorter showers, using natural light whenever possible, and sealing air leaks and improving insulation.

### How can I tell if my appliances are energy-efficient?

Look for the energy label on your appliances. This label provides information about the appliance's energy efficiency rating, allowing you to compare different models and choose the most efficient option.

## 3. Smart Appliances



### What are smart appliances?

Smart appliances are connected devices that can be controlled remotely, optimise energy use, and participate in demand response programs.

### What are some examples of smart appliances?

Smart thermostats, refrigerators, lighting, washing machines, dryers, and dishwashers.

### What are the benefits of smart appliances?

Smart appliances offer energy optimisation, remote control, convenience, demand response participation, and maintenance diagnostics.

### Do I need a smart home system to use smart appliances?

No, you don't necessarily need a full smart home system to use smart appliances. Most smart appliances can be controlled independently through their dedicated apps or voice commands. However, integrating them into a smart home system can offer additional benefits, such as centralised control and automation.

### Are smart appliances more expensive to repair?

The repair cost for smart appliances can vary depending on the specific issue and the appliance model. In some cases, repairs may be more expensive due to the additional technology and complexity involved. However, smart appliances often come with extended warranties or service plans that can help mitigate these costs.

## 4. Renewable Energy Sources



### What are renewable energy sources?

Renewable energy sources are naturally replenished, such as sunlight, wind, water, geothermal heat, and biomass.

### How can I utilise renewable energy in my home?

Install solar panels, explore community solar options, choose a green energy supplier, and invest in energy-efficient appliances.

### Are there financial incentives for renewable energy installations?

Yes, explore government incentives, tax credits, or rebates to help offset costs.

### How do I know if my home is suitable for solar panels?

Several factors determine if your home is suitable for solar panels, including the amount of sunlight your roof receives, the orientation and tilt of your roof, the size and condition of your roof, and any local shading from trees or buildings. A qualified solar installer can assess your home and provide a detailed analysis of its solar potential.

### What are the maintenance requirements for solar panels?

Solar panels generally require minimal maintenance. However, it's important to keep them clean to ensure optimal performance and have them inspected periodically by a professional to identify and address any potential issues.



# 5. Smart Grid



## What is the smart grid?

The smart grid is a modernised electrical grid that uses digital technology to improve efficiency, reliability, and sustainability.

## How does the smart grid benefit me as a homeowner?

The smart grid enables real-time energy monitoring, demand response programs, integration of renewable energy sources, and improved outage management.

## How can I participate in the smart grid?

Contact your energy provider to learn about smart grid initiatives in your area and explore options for smart meters, time-of-use tariffs, and demand response programs.

## How will I know if my area has a smart grid?

You can check with your local utility or energy provider to find out if they have implemented smart grid technologies in your area. They can also provide information about any available smart grid programs or initiatives that you can participate in.

## Will the smart grid increase my energy bills?

The smart grid itself does not directly increase your energy bills. In fact, it can help you save money by enabling more efficient energy use and participation in demand response programs. However, the cost of upgrading the grid infrastructure may be reflected in electricity rates over time.

## 6. Energy Security



### What is energy security?

Energy security means having access to a consistent and affordable supply of electricity.

### How can I improve my home's energy security?

Improve energy efficiency, consider renewable energy generation and storage, participate in demand response programs, and develop an emergency preparedness plan.

### What are some alternative heating and cooking options in case of a power outage?

Some alternative heating and cooking options include wood-burning stoves or fireplaces, portable propane heaters, camping stoves, and charcoal grills. It's important to use these options safely and follow all manufacturer instructions.

### How can I stay informed about energy market trends and policies?

You can stay informed about energy market trends and policies by following relevant news sources and industry publications, subscribing to newsletters or alerts from your energy provider or government agencies, and attending local community meetings or workshops on energy-related topics.

# 7. Energy Storage



## What is energy storage?

Energy storage technologies, like batteries, store excess energy for later use during high demand, outages, or when electricity prices are high.

## What are the benefits of energy storage?

Energy storage maximises renewable energy use, enables cost savings with time-of-use tariffs, provides backup power, supports grid stability, and reduces carbon footprint.

## What should I consider when choosing an energy storage solution?

Consider battery technology, system sizing, cost, financial incentives, integration, and maintenance.

## How long can a battery typically store energy?

The duration a battery can store energy depends on its capacity and the amount of energy being used. Most home battery systems can provide backup power for several hours or even days, depending on your energy needs and the battery's size.

## Can I install a battery system myself?

Installing a battery system typically requires professional installation due to the electrical connections and safety considerations involved. It's recommended to work with a qualified electrician or solar installer to ensure proper installation and compliance with local regulations.

## 8. Demand Response



### What is demand response?

Demand response programs incentivise you to reduce electricity usage during peak demand periods, contributing to grid stability and earning rewards.

### How can I participate in demand response?

Enrol in a program offered by your utility or a third-party provider, receive notifications during peak events, and adjust your energy usage accordingly.

### Will participating in demand response programs disrupt my daily life?

The impact on your daily life will depend on the specific program and the adjustments you need to make during DR events. Some programs offer more flexibility than others, allowing you to choose when and how you reduce your energy usage.

### How do I know if a demand response program is legitimate?

To ensure a demand response program is legitimate, check if it's offered by your utility or a reputable third-party provider. Research the program thoroughly, read reviews, and understand the terms and conditions before enrolling.

## 9. Energy Audits



### What is an energy audit?

An energy audit is a professional assessment of your home's energy performance to identify areas for improvement.

### What are the benefits of an energy audit?

Energy audits help identify energy-saving opportunities, prioritise upgrades, reduce energy bills, improve comfort, increase home value, and benefit the environment.

### How can I get an energy audit?

Schedule a professional audit or conduct a basic DIY audit using online tools.

### How much does a professional energy audit cost?

The cost of a professional energy audit can vary depending on the size of your home, the complexity of the audit, and the region you live in. Some utilities or government programs may offer free or discounted energy audits.

### Can I make the recommended energy efficiency improvements myself?

Some energy efficiency improvements, such as sealing air leaks or replacing light bulbs, can be DIY projects. However, more complex upgrades, such as installing insulation or upgrading HVAC systems, typically require professional assistance.

# 10. Prosumer



## What is a prosumer?

A prosumer is someone who both consumes and produces energy, typically through renewable energy technologies.

## What are the benefits of becoming a prosumer?

Prosumers can reduce energy bills, increase savings, achieve energy independence, contribute to environmental sustainability, and potentially increase property value.

## What should I consider before becoming a prosumer?

Consider the initial investment, technical expertise, grid connection, energy management, and community engagement.

## Can I become a prosumer if I live in an apartment or rented property?

Becoming a prosumer in an apartment or rented property can be more challenging, but it's not impossible. You may need to explore options like community solar programs or balcony-mounted solar panels. It's important to communicate with your landlord or property manager to understand any restrictions or requirements.

## How do I find a qualified installer for renewable energy systems?

You can find qualified installers by asking for recommendations from friends, family, or neighbours who have installed renewable energy systems, checking online directories or review sites for local installers, or contacting your local utility or renewable energy organisations for referrals.

# Remember

*“Every step you take towards energy efficiency and sustainable practices contributes to a brighter future. Contact your energy provider or local energy expert for personalised guidance and support on your journey to becoming an empowered energy consumer!”*

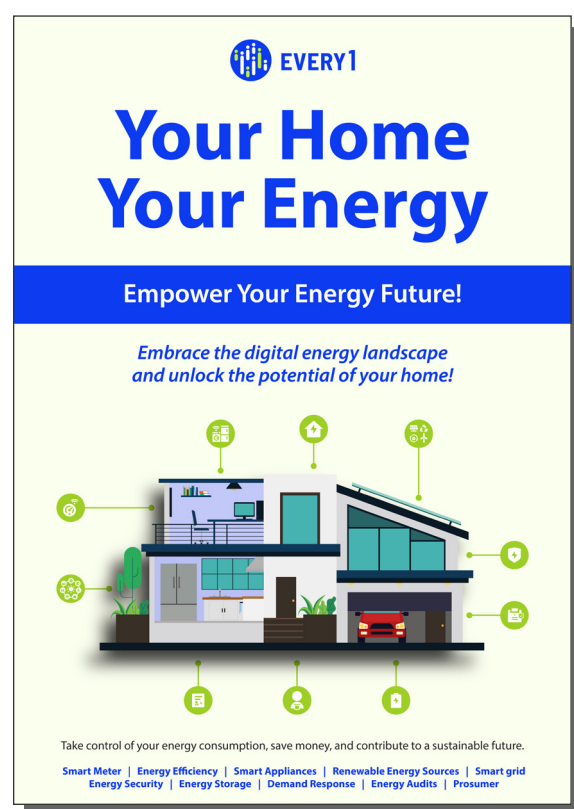
## Information & Engagement Package

This information is part of a comprehensive Information & Engagement Package designed to empower everyone in the digital energy transition. It provides practical guidance and resources to help understand key concepts, make informed decisions, and actively participate in shaping a more sustainable energy future.

### Practical Guide



### Poster





## Your Home, Your Energy

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

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This material was administered for review between January and February 2025.

We would appreciate your feedback [here](#).

Your **insights** and **recommendations** are valuable to us for this learning material.

