

7. Benefits, grants and financial help with fuel bills

Section 4 lists some emergency funding you might be able to use if you are in trouble. But it helps to also, always, make sure you get any **grants, discounts or other help** that is available to help pay fuel bills (as well as other benefits that you may be entitled to!). Below is a rough guide. There is more detail about the government help schemes here: www.goo.gl/zwPzL5

- **If you get pension credit, or if you are at risk of fuel poverty and on certain benefits, you may be able to get the Warm Home Discount which is currently £140 a year** from your electricity bill. Not all suppliers offer this discount (see Section 8 'Switching supplier'). Pensioners who qualify should be given it automatically, but other people need to apply for it and even if you qualify, it is **first come first served**. Be sure to tell them any information that makes you "vulnerable" – e.g. children aged five or younger, or if you or someone in your household has a disability.
- **Cold Weather Payments:** You may get a Cold Weather Payment if you're getting **certain benefits**. Payments are made when your local weather is recorded as, or is forecast to be, an average of zero degrees Celsius or below over seven consecutive days. These payments are worth £25 for each seven-day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March: www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment/overview.

Winter Fuel Discount You could get between **£100 and £300** tax-free to help pay your heating bills if you were **born on or before 5 August 1953** (for winter 2017 to 2018 - this date changes every year). This is known as a "Winter Fuel Payment". Most payments are made automatically between November and December. You should get your money by Christmas. You usually get a Winter Fuel Payment automatically if you get the State Pension or another social security benefit (not Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction or Child Benefit). **If you qualify but don't get paid automatically, you'll need to make a claim.**



Check out what benefits, grant or discounts you may be entitled to on the Turn2Us benefit calculator: www.bit.ly/1yJUHb5 or call 0808 802 2000.

For other benefits that are not fuel-related, and for information on help with energy saving measures, see Section 11 'For the long term' below.