

## TETBURY ADVERTISER

## Not So Smart Meters?

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1 Until recently, I was getting a letter and a phone call every week from my gas and electricity supplier, telling me a Smart Meter would save me money. My answer was always the same – NO. I asked if they could save the cost of all that marketing and pass the saving on – I'm still waiting for an answer.

2 An article by Citizens' Advice in the sep21 Tetbury Advertiser, explained that Smart Meters save consumers money - and also help to save the planet. On the face of it, what's not to like? Quite a lot, as I found out.

3 I had only spent a few minutes researching Smart Meters online when I hit a snag in the Citizens' Advice argument. A snag I had suspected.

4 To save money and help save the planet, it is essential to either use less power, which saves money and the planet, or find a cheaper supplier, which saves money.

5 A so-called Smart Meter – which turned out to be another name for an Advanced Meter Installation, a two-way device used by utility companies to measure energy usage in homes - won't, by itself, save money or the planet.

6 I'd still need to regularly check the meter's data and adjust my usage accordingly, by turning lights off when not in use and so on.

[They're smart, but they're not going to win a Nobel Prize any time soon.](#)

Do I really need a new piece of tech to tell me that a lower wattage bulb will cost less to run?

7 Citizens' Advice did not mention this point. I might have forgiven them, had it not been that they also did not mention that ONE IN THREE households have [problems with Smart Meters](#).

8 The [most common problems](#) are:

The display stops responding

The whole machine can stop working

Meter installation can take hours – during which you are without power

A Smart Meter, of course, won't save money or fight climate change by itself

Smart Meters can be confusing and anxiety-producing

A meter may stop being "smart" if you switch provider

The machine may not connect to the Internet

9 OK, so the tech is still not 100%. But when they do work, Citizens' Advice are right when they say Smart Meters can save consumers money, aren't they?

NOPE. The truth is [they can cost consumers more](#) - companies can change tariffs as often as they like, raising prices when demand is higher or supply is lower.

And right now, we are being threatened with low energy supplies.

No wonder companies – and the government – are pushing Smart Meters.

10 The energy companies say Smart Meters are free to the consumer. But that's not true - [we, the consumers, are paying for Smart Meters](#). It's just that the installation is free. We are being charged through increased fuel prices. Could it even be one of the reasons for the current spike in power prices – the cost of all the Smart Meters?

11 There turned out to be another problem, as well. Smart Meters may be harmful to our health. Yes, something else to add to the growing list. A list which now apparently includes 5G.

12 With a Smart Meter, there is no need for anyone to read it - it sends data about usage to the company's central computer using radiofrequency waves, a form of electromagnetic energy. There we have it – more EMF in our homes which I'm coming to understand is bad for us.

13 Smart Meters emit electromagnetic radiation in the form of radiofrequency radiation, a by-product of radiofrequency waves. This has been [classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer](#) as "possibly carcinogenic [cancer-causing] to humans."

14 No data shows RF radiation is safe and no one has conducted health studies on people living in homes with Smart Meters. People with Smart Meters in their homes have reported [dizziness, ear pain, memory problems, heart palpitations, anxiety and sleep problems](#).

15 So, it seems that Smart Meters are not so smart.  
At least not for us consumers!  
But don't take my word for it – do your own research.

16 For me, it's a case of, as Lord Sugar says on "The Apprentice",  
*"I've seen enough."*  
Or, to put it another way - as they say on Dragon's Den,  
*"It's a NO from me."*

By: Helen King

Source: Tetbury CONNECT: [Magazine](#)

[LINK](#): The Eco Experts - Top 7 Problems with Smart Meters

[LINK](#): Smart Meter Disadvantages: myths, problems, surge pricing?

[LINK](#): How Dangerous Is Your Smart Meter?



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