

We hope you're having a relaxing, sustainable festive season.

Check below for ideas to help you reduce your energy use over the winter, and for a taster of what's coming up in the IDEAL project in 2019!

Keep a lid on bills and carbon this winter

Your IDEAL feedback system provides a range of tools to help you manage your energy use:

- Sign up to 'the Challenge' to save on heating bills.
- Use the Energy Tester feature to compare different ways of cooking the same dinner.
- New Year's reflections and goals:
 - ✓ Which of the energy saving tips did you try in 2018? (Check them out via the link from the app home screen).
 - ✓ Which tips are you going to give a shot in 2019?
- Take a look at your room temperature and humidity charts. What patterns you can see?

Top tip

To get the most accurate information from your IDEAL feedback, keep the following up to date in the app:

- your electricity and gas tariffs
- your room details (names and types of room)
- user account details

Coming up in 2019

We're planning to crank up the development of new features again in 2019. Here's a taster...

Smart meters

Currently we can't get your gas data if you get smart meters. **That is about to change.** In the new year we will be updating the IDEAL system to be able to read the new generation of smart meters that are just beginning to be installed by energy companies.

If you want to switch to smart meters, make sure to confirm with your energy supplier that they'll be installing 'SMETS2' meters, and not the old 'SMETS1' meters. The new, SMETS2, meters provide a range of advantages that benefit you, outwith IDEAL, as well as making it possible for us to collect the readings.

We hope to be able to read SMETS2 meters from around April 2019. We'll send another update nearer the time.

Feedback on your smartphone & tablet

We're putting finishing touches to an Android app that you can use from your smartphone, tablet or Chromebook. Expect that to be ready around February. We have plans for an iOS/iPhone version soon after.

In the meantime, you can log in from most devices via a web browser, via myhome.energyoracle.org. (You can find your username and password under 'Settings' on the IDEAL tablet when you click on your name there).

And much more!

Watch out for your Spring newsletter for details of more new features!

Finally, we wish you a wonderful 2019

Thank you for your continued participation in IDEAL!