

"As one may expect, competition⁶⁰ in the energy sector is massive, with firms all vying for⁶¹ customers," Charlotte Saunders explains. "This is even more so the case at present, what with companies desperate to offer deals and incentives⁶² to those who are wanting to switch suppliers in order to save as much as possible."

"Gas and electricity bills are two of the biggest concerns⁶³ for many household owners or tenants⁶⁴, largely because they can vary⁶⁵ drastically from month to month. So right now there's even more reason to make the move and secure a better deal."

However, as Ruth London at UK campaign group Fuel Poverty Action told Euronews, for many, simply opting for⁶⁶ an alternative supplier isn't always as easy as it may appear. "People on low incomes are often not in a position to do the regular kind of shopping around online and chasing the better deals that better-off⁶⁷ people can do," she said. "You may be working two jobs already and have children. You may not have Internet access."

"The whole solution that the government has been putting forward⁶⁸ was switch to a better, cheaper supplier. And now that's been shown to be the really fake⁶⁹ solution that it always was because the companies that people have switched to – as they were offering much better deals – have gone bust⁷⁰."

Brighter Times Ahead?

As mentioned, industry experts have given no indication⁷¹ as to when rises are likely to stop. There has been even less mention⁷² of them returning back to what one might call "normal". For the time being⁷³ it seems everybody is in the same boat⁷⁴ as the effects take hold⁷⁵.

"It's not only the paying public that are concerned," says Charlotte Saunders. "The sector as a whole is keen for⁷⁶ things to stabilise and will be working vigorously⁷⁷ in order to get things back to some kind of normality⁷⁸. Let's just hope this happens sooner rather than later." ■

BEM TEST



Articulate Your Articles

Complete the extract from the text with the missing articles. Use a, an, the, and x (no article).

(1) _____ overall¹ surge² has not only caused fears about inflation but also potential shortages in (2) _____ long term. It's (3) _____ issue which trickles down³ from (4) _____ industry's top dogs⁴ to (5) _____ paying consumer. With many families and individuals already living on (6) _____ shoestring⁵ as (7) _____ global economy struggles to⁶ stabilise following (8) _____ pandemic, (9) _____ price hike⁷ is set to⁸ cause all (10) _____ manner of problems.

¹ overall ˌəʊvəˈrɔːl ogólny

² surge sɜːdʒ gwałtowny wzrost, skok (czegoś)

³ to trickle down tə ˈtrɪkl daʊn przenikać (powoli przedostawać się gdzieś), skapnąć (gdzieś, komuś itp.)

⁴ top dog ˈtɒp ˈdɒɡ gruba ryba, szczyha

⁵ shoestring ˈʃuːstrɪŋ niski budżet, minimalne środki (pot.)

⁶ to struggle to do sth tə ˈstrʌɡl tə du ˈsʌmθɪŋ mieć problem ze zrobieniem czegoś

⁷ price hike praɪs haɪk podwyżka ceny, wzrost ceny

⁸ to be set to do sth tə bi set tə du ˈsʌmθɪŋ mieć/planować coś zrobić; zrobić coś (na pewno)

Answers:

1. The, 2. The, 3. An, 4. The, 5. The, 6. A, 7. The, 8. The, 9. The, 10. X

⁶⁰ competition ˌkɒmpəˈtɪʃn rywal, konkurencja

⁶¹ to vie for sth tə vaɪ fɔː(r) ˈsʌmθɪŋ ubiegać się o coś, rywalizować o coś

⁶² incentive ɪnˈsentɪv zachęta, motywacja

⁶³ concern kənˈsɜːn obawa

⁶⁴ tenant ˈtenənt najemca

⁶⁵ to vary tə ˈveəri różnić się, wahać

⁶⁶ to opt for sth tu opt fɔː(r) ˈsʌmθɪŋ optować za czymś

⁶⁷ better-off ˈbetə(r) ɒf zamożni (ludzie)

⁶⁸ to put sth forward tə pʊt ˈsʌmθɪŋ ˈfɔːwəd wyjść z czymś, zaprezentować coś

⁶⁹ fake feɪk podrabiany, sfałszowany

⁷⁰ to go bust tə ɡəʊ bʌst zbankrutować

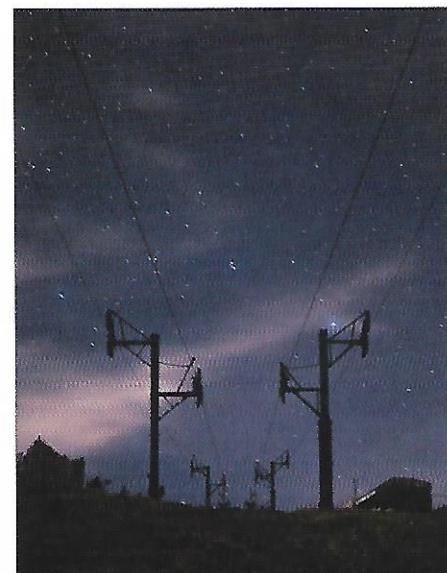
⁷¹ indication ɪndɪˈkeɪʃn wskazówka, oznaka

⁷² mention ˈmenʃn wzmianka

⁷³ for the time being fɔː(r) ðə ˈtaɪm ˈbiːɪŋ jak na razie

⁷⁴ to be in the same boat tə bi ɪn ðə seɪm bəʊt być w tej samej sytuacji, jechać na jednym wózku

⁷⁵ to take hold tə teɪk həʊld zadomowić się, wejść gdzieś na dobre



⁷⁶ to be keen for sth tə bi kiːn fɔː(r) ˈsʌmθɪŋ nie móc się czegoś doczekać, czekać na coś

⁷⁷ vigorously ˈvɪɡərəsli żywo, z werwą

⁷⁸ normality nɔːˈmælɪti normalność