

WINNER



MOST INNOVATIVE
NEW PRODUCT



Community Heating Schemes: are they working for you?

Introducing the
G6 EcoServe...



Three decades of experience...

80% of our clients are housing professionals. We asked them what the main issues were when managing community energy schemes, and found out how we could help. We used our extensive experience in developing and operating 5 previous generations of pay-as-you-go energy units to bring you the G6 - the industry leading pay-as-you-go energy product in a new generation of advanced smart metering technology.

Incorporating an 'in-home display', the G6 enables customers to see how much energy they're using in graphical form, when they're using it and how much credit they have available. Complying with the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH), the G6 helps customers budget and monitor their energy use, helping them to reduce consumption, cost and carbon.

Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing – a case study

ENER-G Switch2 was appointed by Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH) in December 2011 under a £1.7m contract. The aim was to create a flexible energy management and payment process for its residents over a 5 year period including maintenance and data administration for all homes connected to their community heating scheme.



Kirklees
Neighbourhood
Housing

KNH's 1036 homes are spread across 28 schemes throughout the Kirklees borough. Traditional prepayment schemes involving small numbers of residents purchasing 'credit' from local shops was not practical or viable. In addition, KNH was looking for more than a payment system; they wanted residents to be actively involved in managing their energy more efficiently - to help eradicate fuel poverty and achieve a smaller carbon footprint.

Since the roll-out of the G6 technology in March 2012, KNH residents have reduced overall energy consumption by 15%. However, when winter consumption is factored in and residents become familiar with the system, KNH predicts that the annual average consumption will reduce by 30-50%.

Barry Goodwin, KNH Project Manager said *"the key to reducing energy consumption is being able to see what you're using. Weekly heating bills have plummeted to, on average, just £5.00 per week. For our elderly residents this amount is just about covered by the winter fuel payment paid by the government, therefore we can say that this project is most definitely providing affordable warmth to our residents!:"*



"I am very happy with the unit, it's cost effective, and I now know exactly how much I'm spending, which is brilliant. Different ways to pay is also really helpful. It's easy to use and has been explained to us really well."
- Ian McLellan, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing resident.

The Problem

Many existing community and district energy schemes in the UK are unable to recover the cost of consumer heating charges, and are either in large amounts of debt or must be highly subsidised to continue running. This causes continual financial headaches for housing managers who must strike a balance between providing affordable warmth to customers whilst collecting enough revenue to cover the operating costs of the scheme.



The Solution: G6 EcoServe

Historically, scheme operators and billing providers have always required that consumer credit risk be underwritten by the housing association, meaning that housing managers could never be free from the risk of consumer debt.

We have designed and developed our G6 pay-as-you-go system to provide a fair and accurate billing solution and at the same time, act as a powerful tool to remove the risk of consumer debt on community energy schemes.

We're so confident in the functionality and reliability of the G6, thanks to its wireless GPRS technology that allows us to remotely manage the unit, that we can confidently take on the consumer energy debt risk as part of a complete metering and billing service. We'll manage your scheme, whether it is new or existing, currently metered or un-metered or where other providers' equipment has been installed.

The Benefits

- ✓ Removes consumer debt risk, allowing housing professionals to concentrate on their 'core business' activities
- ✓ Removes the need for a point-of-sale outlet
- ✓ Helps improve resident budgeting
- ✓ A variety of flexible payment options
- ✓ Easy installation in new-build or existing housing stock
- ✓ Has an in-home display compliant with level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes
- ✓ Encourages positive behavioural change by allowing users to see what they are using and when
- ✓ Has a text messaging facility allowing us to send important information to the users
- ✓ Complete remote management: energy top-ups, credit to pay-as-you-go mode changes (and vice versa),
- ✓ tariff/standing charge changes, extension of emergency credit etc.



No up-front capital investment necessary

We can provide the G6 system, as well as any supporting metering equipment needed to manage community energy schemes effectively, without the requirement for up-front capital investment.

We can 'free-issue' this equipment and recover the cost slowly over the useful lifetime of the products.

New or existing schemes

Whether the scheme is a new development or there is a problem with consumer credit debt on an existing scheme, we can help.

Because the G6 uses wireless GPRS technology, we can retrofit our equipment into most environments along with the associated metering and control equipment. Our complete billing and maintenance services mean that we can take over the scheme management and the associated credit risks, removing the problem of unpaid consumer heating charges.

Our unparalleled knowledge and experience managing pay-as-you-go energy schemes, developed over three decades, means you can leave the day-to-day management to us safe in the knowledge that your residents are in expert hands.

A smarter way to pay

Customers in pay-as-you-go mode can top-up anytime, anywhere so there's no longer a need for a point-of-sale outlet - they don't even need to leave the house. This avoids the high operating and administration costs that are normally associated with pay-as-you-go energy schemes.

Using wireless technology we can provide fair, transparent and most importantly flexible payment options.



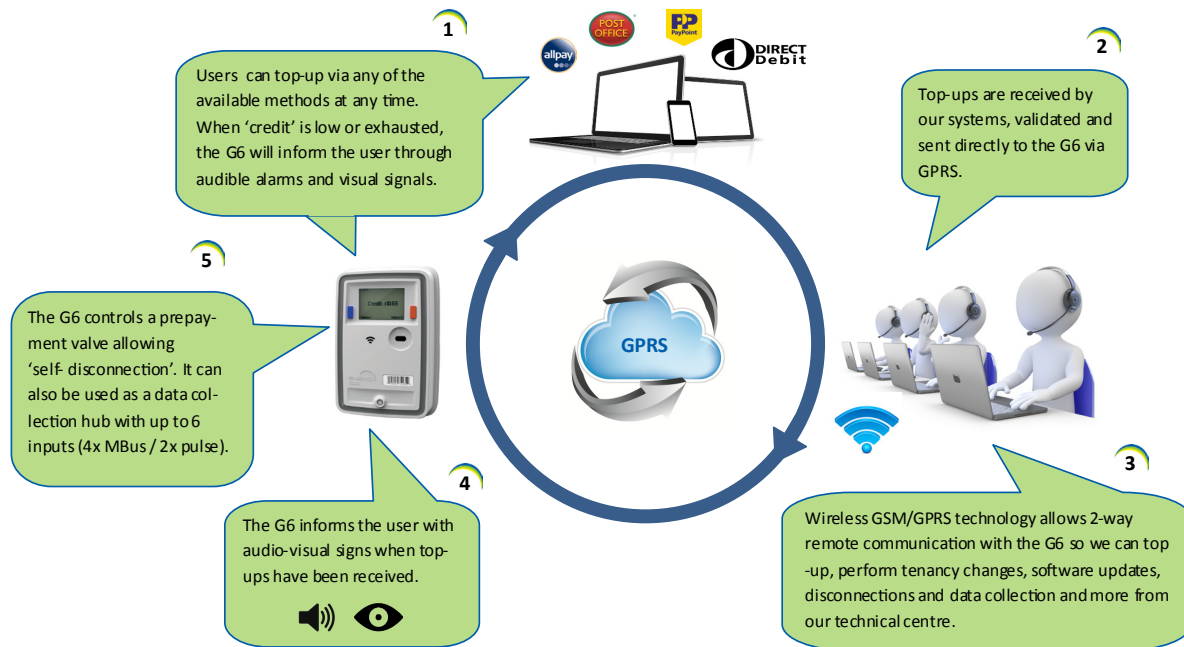
Consumer choice and empowerment

With flexible payment options, the G6 accommodates both monthly billing and pay-as-you-go modes, acting as a data collector and a smart payment device.

Everyone on a community energy scheme can have a G6 installed and everyone pays the same fair energy price, removing the stigma often associated with pay-as-you-go energy.



How the G6 system works



Remote, scalable management

Using secure wireless GPRS communication, the G6 is completely remote managed. This wireless communication means there is no need for expensive BMS systems, MBus or other wired networks* and offers great flexibility. The G6 is ideal for all situations, whether new-build or retrofit. It removes the need for a point-of-sale, and therefore expensive administration costs, meaning that pay-as-you-go schemes are viable whether you have 5 or 5000 connected properties.

The wireless capability of the G6 means that it provides fantastic value for money over its lifetime as a variety of functions can be administered from our technical centre without the need for expensive and time consuming service visits and access attempts. It's also future-proof, because software updates can be sent directly to the unit, so you get the latest technology from day 1 to decommission.



For a demonstration of the G6, scan the Quick Reference code with your smartphone.

* A hard wired Mbus option is available if required

A tailored solution designed with housing managers in mind...

We offer a complete range of services that provide real added-value to community energy schemes. Our extensive knowledge gained over decades of operating community heating schemes, and more recently being part of the ENER-G group means we can offer a 'total energy solution' to all stakeholders on new and existing schemes.

We can provide:

- all metering, heating control and data collection equipment
- site-wide maintenance services to keep your scheme running 24/7/365
- advanced data collection and reporting services
- complete comprehensive billing services, including credit control and debt management procedures
- a variety of scheme management solutions to suit all applications (ESCo and other service products)
- design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) solutions for new energy centres
- help with scheme financial modelling and tariff setting
- a complete suite of standardised contractual documents, designed with flexibility in mind to meet your requirements
- bulk energy procurement contracting.

For more information about the services we can offer, please get in touch with us today.

T:+44 (0) 871 423 4242

F:+44 (0) 871 423 6161

E:switch2.sales@energ.co.uk

www.energ-group.com/ener-g-switch2/

ENER-G Switch2 Ltd, The Waterfront, Salts Mill Road, Shipley, Yorkshire, BD17 7EZ