Worksheet 4: Preparing for the Costs of Managing a Home

Questions to ask before spending money on items needed for your new home

Question	Action required
When will I need the item?	
What options are available?	
Could I get it from friends or family?	
Could I swap it for something I have but don't need?	
Could I buy pre-owned or refurbished or get it free from a recycle facility?	
Can I save enough between now and when I need it?	
Are there other items I need to prioritise ahead of this item?	

Question	Action required
If I can't save for it, how will I afford the repayments if I borrow?	
Do I know where to go for support if I can't afford essential items?	
If necessary, can I borrow and spread the payments to avoid interest and charges	

Activity: Comparing Electricity Providers

Switching energy providers can save you money. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) has approved four price comparison websites to help you check the best deals. These are:

- Bonkers.ie
- Switcher.ie
- PowerToSwitch.ie
- EnergySwitch.ie

Choose any approved site, enter your details (like current supplier and usage), then compare the offers. Follow the steps on the site to switch if you find a better deal.

Comparing Electricity Providers

Price Plan	Provider 1	Provider 2
Consumption – cents per kwh		
Standing charge		
Prepayment Service Charge		
PSO levy		
VAT - 9%		
Total Estimated Cost		

Have you noticed?

- Each energy provider offers different price plans.
- Costs can vary for usage (how much energy you use) and the standing charge (a fixed fee), depending on the plan.
- Prepay meters have an extra service charge that doesn't apply to billpay plans.
- If you use both electricity and gas, check for dual fuel deals - these can sometimes save money.
- Most contracts last at least 12 months, and you may pay a penalty if you leave early.
- Even with a penalty, switching can sometimes still save you money.