

A practical guide to MHHS

Discover exactly what Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement means for your organisation and how you can benefit from what's ahead.



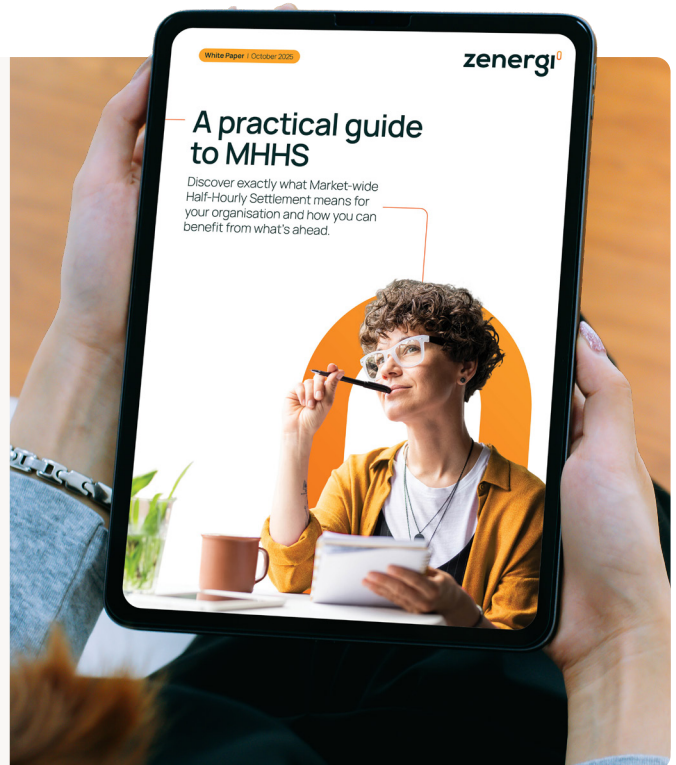
The biggest shake-up since privatisation

One of the biggest changes to the energy sector in decades is around the corner. Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS) will give consumers and UK organisations accurate half-hourly energy data. This will allow you to better understand the way energy is used and access new time-of-use tariffs that can help reduce costs.

A practical guide to MHHS breaks down exactly what this will mean for your organisation and why being prepared sooner rather than later can make a difference. You'll see what benefits your organisation can look forward to, how MHHS supports your net zero ambitions and which challenges may lie ahead.

Take a look at:

- What is Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement?
- Reshaping the UK's energy market
- How your organisation can benefit
- Answers at a glance
- Engage and get ready



What is MHHS?

Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS) represents the biggest change to the energy sector since privatisation in the 90s, affecting consumers and organisations alike. Once implemented, it will provide your organisation with accurate half-hourly energy data, allowing you to clearly understand usage and take advantage of time-of-use tariffs that will allow for cost reductions.

The rollout of MHHS

Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement (MHHS) represents a transformative initiative in the UK's energy sector, designed to enhance the accuracy of electricity billing and promote more efficient energy usage across all domestic and commercial consumers.

Led by the UK's energy regulator Ofgem, its comprehensive implementation programme is the responsibility of Elexon and requires the whole industry to work together to deliver the modernisation required to change the way energy is used and accounted for across the UK.

Much work has already been done with the migration phase beginning in October 2025 and full completion expected by July 2027.



Up to £4.5 billion of benefits

Ofgem has predicted that MHHS will bring net benefits for consumers in the UK of between £1.6bn and £4.5bn between 2021 and 2045.



Why it matters

The current system for settling electricity use is outdated.

The UK is aiming for a zero-carbon grid by 2035, which will see more renewable power from wind and solar, alongside rising demand from electric vehicles and electric heating. Traditional customer categories no longer reflect how energy is really used. MHHS aims to fix this by using smart meter data to settle energy consumption far more accurately – every 30 minutes.

MHHS means your bills will reflect exactly how much electricity you use and when you use it.

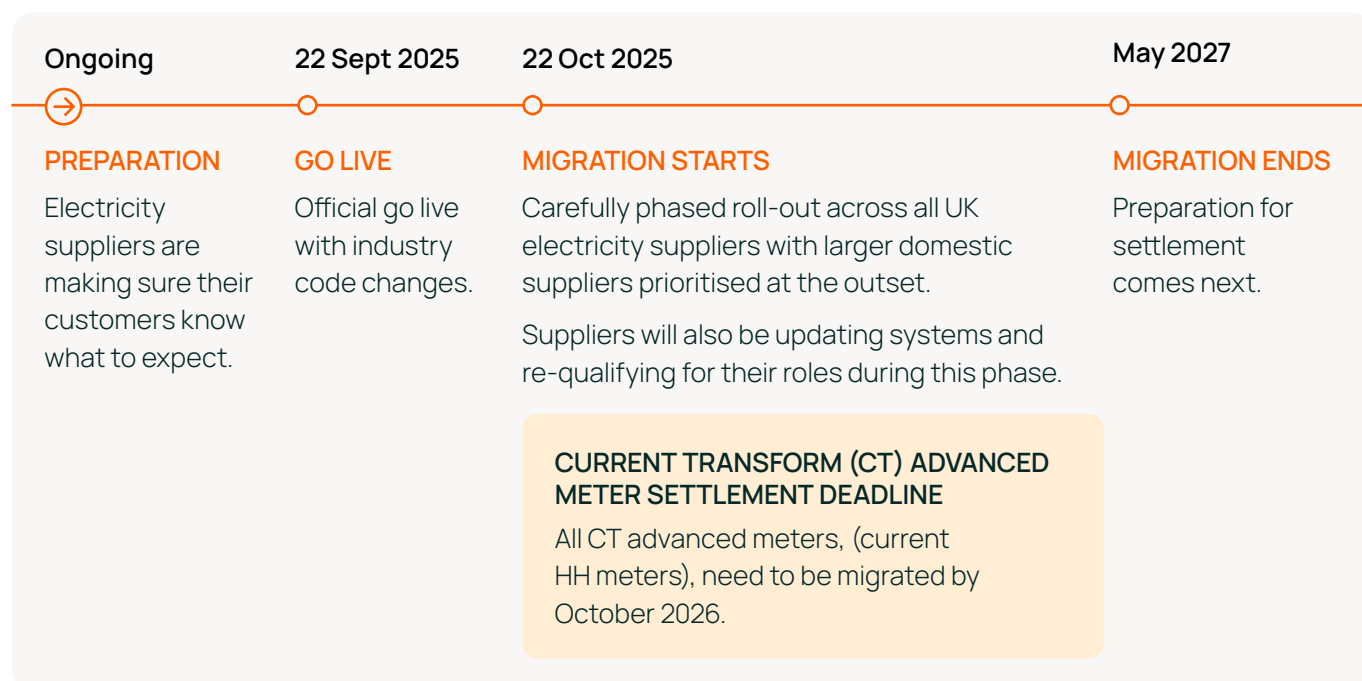


How it will help your organisation

Half-hourly data will give you granular insights into the way you actually consume electricity, as it will reflect reality rather than the assumptions predominantly used today. Diving deeper into how energy is being used will enable you to act smarter, such as shifting use to times when prices are lower. This will be easier because energy suppliers will also be leveraging the data to offer new products and pricing regimes as they seek to optimise energy usage across the grid.

Reshaping the UK's energy market

The Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement programme began in April 2021 and is due for completion in July 2027. Rather than a single switch-over, the UK's energy suppliers will begin their own migration processes gradually from October 2025 with the main migration taking place from May 2026 onwards. Although everything is expected to be completed by July 2027, the scale of the programme means there is a reasonable possibility that these dates may shift slightly.



Why domestic first matters

While the MHHS Programme does not explicitly state it, our understanding is that domestic consumers will be prioritised during the rollout. Although the start date for MHHS billing will be the same across all customer types, a phased approach offers clear benefits to organisations:

- Energy suppliers will be able to apply what they've learnt from the domestic rollout to its commercial deployment.
- Many people will already have had some domestic exposure to MHHS, prior to its application at work.



How your organisation can benefit

MHHS will impact every organisation. We believe those that engage early will better understand the changes and be positioned to capitalise on the potential benefits.



Better insights, better decision-making

If your organisation does not use half-hourly meters, MHHS will offer levels of insight never seen before. You will be able to know exactly when, where and how your energy is consumed, leveraging granular data to inform operational and investment decisions. You could also partner with an independent analytics specialist to contrast your data with industry equivalents to develop even greater insight.



Reduce hassle through automation

Automation via smart meters minimises the reliance on manual readings – reducing errors and speeding up the billing process across the energy market.



Enable the net zero transition

New levels of granular data improve your carbon reporting capabilities as well as your ability to reduce emissions through operational efficiency improvements.



Save money by optimising consumption

Greater insight means more opportunities to save. As well as better appreciating how particular buildings or assets are consuming energy and making operational adjustments, it will give you the opportunity to switch to more favourable tariffs as energy suppliers begin to offer newer, more flexible prices. For example, a manufacturing company could use real-time energy monitoring to identify when machinery is running during peak tariff hours and shift certain production processes to off-peak times, reducing overall energy costs without affecting output.



Support a sustainable grid

MHHS strengthens the grid by providing electricity suppliers with greater clarity of when and how energy is consumed. This data will be critical for managing the integration of renewables and batteries.

Challenges we anticipate

Clearly, MHHS has the potential to deliver numerous benefits and the industry is fully committed to making it happen. However, a programme of this magnitude can also lead to some implementation challenges and these should also be considered.

Timeline ambiguity

Full implementation is scheduled to be completed by May 2027. At present, the exact timelines for the roll-outs by each individual energy supplier are not set in stone and a number of timeline shifts have already occurred since MHHS began, so there is still a potential risk of delays.



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physical appointments
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make energy meters
compatible.

Teething problems

MHHS is a significant undertaking. Energy suppliers will need to update technology, systems, processes and working practices. Around 30 million meters will be moving over to the new operating model, with 2.6 million of these being commercial, although many of these can already capture half-hourly data. Around 600,000 physical appointments will be required across the UK.

Inevitably, this will lead to some teething problems which could, counterintuitively, lead to billing errors, as well as overworked help desks. Taking advantage of services, such as independent bill validation, could be particularly valuable as MHHS starts to take effect.

Cost uncertainty

Although MHHS can help your organisation reduce costs, standing charges (i.e. the fixed part of your bills) are likely to be higher than they are today. That's because the huge investments made by the industry will need to be recovered. While the precise impact on standing charges is not yet clear, we expect that for most organisations, the potential cost savings from more favourable time-of-use tariffs will more than offset any increases.



From a sustainability perspective, MHHS will help you report more clearly on your sustainability goals. As you can identify exactly when you're consuming, you can look at ways of reducing that consumption. For example, you may be able to identify what equipment you are using and what impact this has on your consumption – so you could decide to use them less frequently to reduce carbon or to use them at different times to reduce costs."

Alex Payne

Director of Energy Markets and Procurement, Zenergi

Answers at a glance

Still have questions about MHHS? We've compiled a quick-fire list of the most common questions we get asked.

Question	Answer
Does my organisation need a half-hourly meter?	Yes, under MHHS all organisations will move to half-hourly settlement, but this does not always mean you must install a new meter if you already have a smart or advanced meter.
How do I know if my meter is capable of half-hourly settlement?	Check your energy bill for a "profile class" code. If it starts with 00, it's half-hourly. Additionally, all modern AMRs and SMETS2 meters will be capable of HH settlement. If you're unsure, we recommend talking to your energy supplier.
What does the 'settlement' part of MHHS mean exactly?	Settlement is the process of reconciling the energy you actually use with what suppliers purchased on your behalf in the wholesale market.
Are half-hourly meters already mandatory for some organisations?	If you are a 'large energy user' (over 100kW in any half-hour) then you are already required to have them and your energy is already being settled on a half-hourly basis.
How can MHHS help to save my organisation money?	By giving you greater insight you can improve operational efficiency and also take advantage of new flexible tariffs that will reward you for shifting use to cheaper times.
How will my energy bills change once MHHS is implemented?	Standing charges may rise to cover programme costs, although this is not yet clear. However, unit prices could become more competitive and time-of-use tariffs will offer savings.
Should I change my energy supplier to benefit from MHHS?	No, all suppliers must participate in MHHS, though some may offer new tariffs and services sooner than others.
What data will my energy supplier have access to and will my privacy be protected?	Suppliers will receive half-hourly consumption data, but strict regulations and data protection laws ensure it can only be used for billing and settlement.
How can I help my organisation prepare for the transition to half-hourly settlement?	Firstly, check whether your meters are MHHS-ready now and stay in close contact with your energy supplier.

Question	Answer
We're currently on a fixed tariff, does this mean that the MHHS changes won't impact me?	While you're on a fixed tariff, the impact of MHHS will be limited. But once your contract ends there will be new tariffs available, including time-of-use options.
Will MHHS affect how we procure our energy contracts?	Over time, procurement may shift toward more flexible and time-based products, but the tendering process itself will not change.
How will MHHS interact with on-site generation, battery storage, or EV charging?	It will allow these assets to be valued more accurately in settlement, helping organisations benefit from shifting demand or exporting energy at optimal times.
Will smaller organisations benefit as much as larger ones?	Although the savings potential is greater for high-consumption sites, smaller organisations can still benefit from flexible tariffs and better data.
How does MHHS support the UK's transition to net zero?	By providing accurate half-hourly data, MHHS enables more renewable integration and demand flexibility, reducing the reliance on fossil fuels.



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If your organisation is affected, it is a good idea to get ahead and prepare for the necessary upgrade to a half-hourly meter now. You'll gain early access to the benefits half-hourly metering brings. If you do nothing, your energy supplier will appoint an organisation to manage the upgrade for you, which may cost more and limit your ability to maximise the benefits of the transformation.”

Jurjen de Greeve

Commercial Strategy Director for MHHS at Stark

Engage and get ready

It is clear that there is still much to be done before MHHS goes live in 2027. Yet it is our firm belief that the best way to take full advantage of what's to come is to start preparing now.

Is your meter ready?

One of the first steps you can take is to ensure that you have the correct meters in place – either SMETS Smart meters or Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) meters. There's actually an easy way to find out. Check your most recent energy bill and look for the Meter Point Administration Number / Supply Number (MPAN) number. If the profile class – the number in the top left box next to the S – is "00", then you can be sure that you have a half-hourly meter. If not, talk to your energy supplier – or an energy consultant – about what you need to do next.

Get to grips with your current data

Taking a look at your energy consumption is another positive step you can take. By getting to grips with any current patterns, you can identify opportunities and build greater familiarity with data-driven decisions today. This will put you in the strongest position to take advantage of the richer, more granular insights MHHS will bring – turning early preparation into tomorrow's competitive advantage.

Can extra expertise help?

Much of the work to be done lies with the UK's energy suppliers. But it is worth considering whether an independent expert – such as Zenergi – can be a useful partner so you are not simply at your 'supplier's mercy'.

An independent expert can assist both now and tomorrow with skills such as data analysis, meter upgrade management, as well as services such as bill validation, which could be hugely beneficial once MHHS goes live. Similarly, independent partners will have inside knowledge of how effectively the process is being managed by different energy suppliers – useful if your contract is due for renewal prior to the middle of 2027.



Take a look at the detailed MHHS Programme [here](#).

Still unsure?

If you're still uncertain about elements of MHHS or feel that an extra pair of hands would be valuable, why not talk to one of our MHHS experts.

zenergi.co.uk/contact



Key sources

[Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement \(MHHS\): What You Need to Know – Zenergi](#)

[Non-Half-Hourly Meter Exchanges – Zenergi](#)

[Non-Half-Hourly – Glossary – Elexon](#)

[Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement \(MHHS\) – Elexon](#)

[How MHHS Data enables UK's Decarbonisation – Stark](#)

[Electricity Settlement and the Changes under MHHS – Stark](#)

[Watch “MHHS explained in less than 3 minutes” - Stark](#)

[Why Do Businesses Need Half-Hourly Meters? – SMS Energy](#)

[Benefits of MHHS – npower Business Solutions](#)

[Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement FAQ – npower Business Solutions](#)

[Bite-Sized Guide to MHHS \(Updated November 2024\) – EDF Business Solutions \(PDF\)](#)

[What Will MHHS Mean in 2025? – EDF Energy](#)

[Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement – ENGIE UK](#)

[What's the Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement \(MHHS\)? – Drax](#)

[Regulatory Update: MHHS – SmartestEnergy](#)

[Q&A with Jurjen de Greeve, Commercial Strategy Director for MHHS at Stark – Zenergi](#)

[Energy UK Explains: Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement – Energy UK](#)

[Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement – Smart DCC](#)

[Electricity Retail Market-wide Half-Hourly Settlement: Decision and Full Business Case – Ofgem](#)

[MHHS Is Coming: What Energy Suppliers Need to Know – POWWR](#)

Powering a sustainable future



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