

CAN YOU OFFSET YOUR CARBON EMISSIONS AND REDUCE YOUR COSTS?-SEE PAGE 2

GAS PRICES DOWN

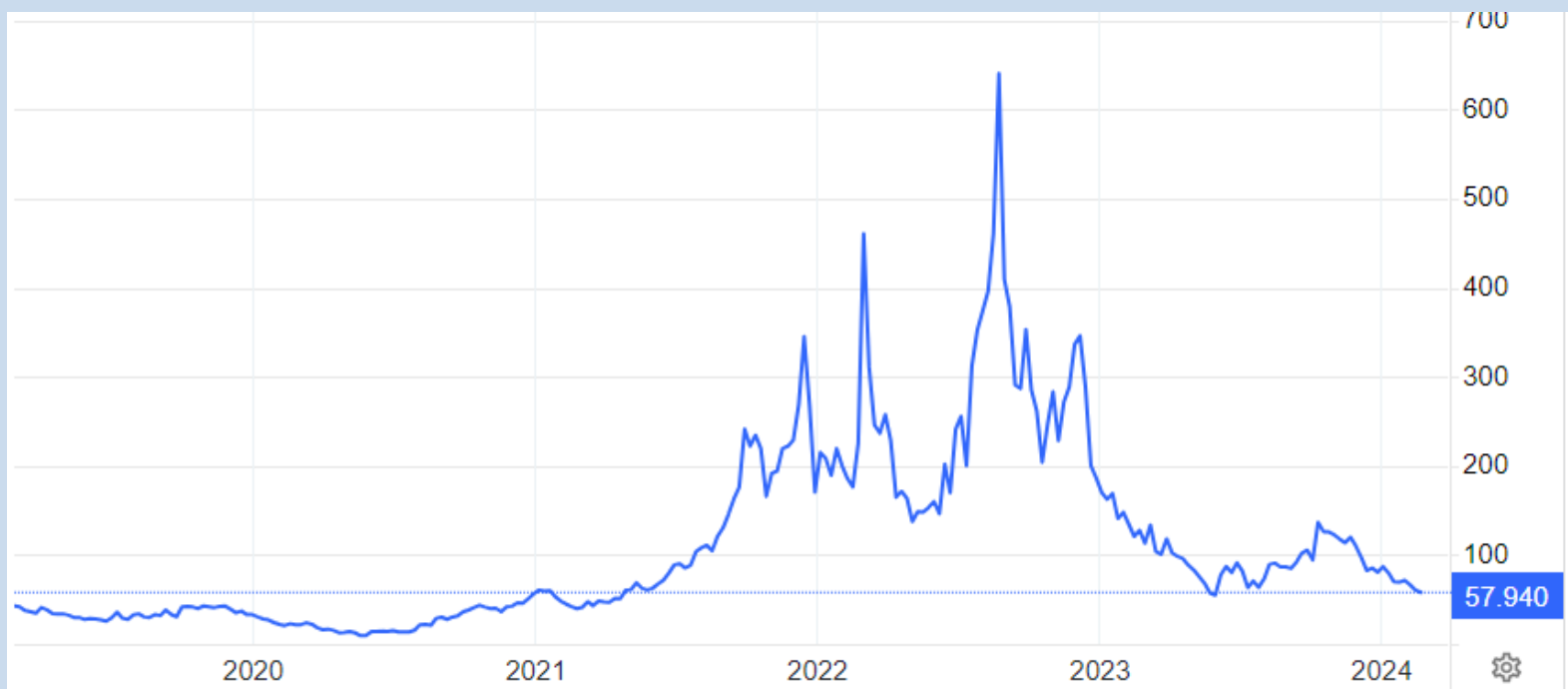
The wholesale price of gas has fallen to around the level it was in 2021 when Russia started cutting supplies.

A combination of higher imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), a mild winter and lower demand due to high prices in recent years have all helped maintain gas storage levels, putting pressure on prices.

UK natural gas prices are now less than a 1/6 of the levels during August 2022..

Whilst imports by sea of LNG from the US and Middle East, have helped keep prices lower, disruptions to shipping could see prices spike.

As Europe competes for LNG with Asia. Should Asia or Asia and Europe experience a prolonged cold spell, prices could spike or soar.



CARBON OFF-SETTING or CARBON OFF-PUTTING?

With the UK still suffering from the inflated energy prices of the last few years it is very welcome to find current energy market prices at their lowest point in over two and a half years. That said, standing charges and other non-commodity charges have escalated sharply and show no signs of reducing for the foreseeable future.



Many providers now feel added weight to look at green energy sources as the pressure increases to reduce your carbon footprint and demonstrate the steps being taken towards net zero. This, in turn, has an additional loading to the cost of your energy with all manner of "green" energy products typically increasing your kWh unit price. Green or Carbon Offsetting Gas averages an extra £186 per resident a year to the care sector.

Focus Energy Services are delighted to announce that we are at an advanced stage of offering providers with a quality UK-based carbon-offsetting facility which will be significantly cheaper and is independently auditable and verifiable unlike some other schemes - another example of Focus looking at providers pain points and trying to help providers secure the best available contracts with no drop in service - only price.

Can you offset and reduce costs?-YES

As Focus daily obtain quotes lower than providers obtain from their current supplier, broker or advisor, we can arrange a genuine, open and transparent way to offset your CO² at a lower cost than your current energy supplies.

We expect to bring you further details in our next newsletter. if this topic is of specific interest to you please contact David Woodward to receive advance details david@focusenergyservices.co.uk

HOW MUCH DOES A LIGHT BULB COST?

A 100 Watt bulb left on 24/7 costs around 50p a day or £15 a month.

A 60 Watt bulb left on 24/7 costs around 30p a day or £9 a month.

With LED bulbs costing as little as £2, you can recover the cost of the bulb in as little as 4 days and then save £15 or £9 a month.

A good broker can reduce your costs at renewal, replacing bulbs can reduce your costs this week.



VAT AT 5% RATHER THAN 20%

We were contacted by a care provider wishing to claim a VAT reduction to 5% and had their VAT declaration returned by their energy supplier.

The request was refused by the energy supplier as not all the providers income qualified for the reduction. Focus calculated that 99.982% did qualify and resolved the problem for the care provider.

The enthusiastic energy supplier would have saved HMRC 4p a year, except their own VAT declaration states “only input whole numbers”, and it’s a shame they don’t spend time pointing out to care providers they are charging 20% VAT to, that they could reduce that to 5% VAT.

QATAR-LIQUID NATURAL GAS (LNG)

Last week the media and commentators seemed to celebrate Qatar announcing that they would expand LNG production by 85%.

Qatar has very low production costs. President Biden has paused approvals of new LNG export projects and the worldwide demand for LNG is increasing.

Will Qatar be controlling the price of LNG? Remember, Russia’s control over oil and gas and what happened to energy prices!



CARE SHOW LONDON

We have two of our directors attending the above, with our stand being next to Care England’s.

You can prebook a 15 minute slot to talk through anything to do with energy by emailing info@focusenergyservices.co.uk



ENERGY RENEWAL QUOTES

We are seeing providers being provided with renewal quotes from their current supplier, that are frequently 50% higher than alternative quotes we obtain, and often over 75% higher.

We suggest alternative quotes are always obtained.



RIP-OFF BROKER FEES

We have been asked for advice by a care provider that was “sold” a contract, for a single supply at £110,039, to their care home including a broker fee of £19,201 equating to a 17.4% fee or 1.38p a kWh.

We would expect a fee between 0.2p up to 0.5p per kWh to have been charged for this contract depending on the support offered by the broker.

The contract thankfully is technically invalid due to an error by the energy supplier and broker, and we are working to have it voided for the provider.

The greatest concern is that the energy supplier (one of the biggest) is one that insists on authorising brokers even if they submit contracts through third parties (many do) and this contract had all the brokers details within it.

Is this major energy supplier concerned about care providers being ripped off?- We have our opinion.

As always obtain written evidence of your brokers fees, a broker that doesn't provide it without being asked, probably has a reason why.



LATEST AUDIT RESULTS

The latest completed energy audit for a care provider resulted in an average overcharge of just under £6,300 per care home.

Audits are especially important considering the number of errors that occurred with the Energy Bill Relief Scheme and with cross overs from an old to a new contract and estimated bills.



If you have a question please send it to info@focusenergyservices.co.uk

Our website www.focusenergyservices.co.uk has regular updates and testimonials from