



# SUTHERLAND TABLES

COMPARATIVE DOMESTIC HEATING COST TABLES

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## **STOP PRESS - Sutherland Tables taken over by new publishers!**

The Sutherland Comparative Domestic Heating Cost Tables have recently been taken over by a new publisher, DPW Associates - a small Belfast-based consultancy with over 25 years experience in the fields of energy and IT.

This move follows the retirement of Norman Jones, the previous publisher, who had handed the Tables back to their originator, Colin Sutherland. We came to learn, through an industry contact, that a new publisher was being sought for the Tables and, following discussions with Colin, agreed to take on the work..

Our background in energy and IT means that we are ideally placed to maintain and develop not only the content of the Tables, but also the way in which they are produced. Regarding the latter, we are in the process of moving to a fully web-based delivery service, which we believe is the way to go – streamlining production of the tables, enhancing ease of access – and of course reducing our energy and environmental impact via absence of paper and mailing transportation!

Another key advantage when it comes to producing the Tables is that we are entirely commercially independent. Our energy activities are focused mainly on reducing energy consumption in buildings, no matter what type of fuel or energy is used. We therefore have no interest in favouring, or appearing to favour, any one fuel or energy type over another.

The web-based delivery system should be up and running in time for the October 06 issue. For the current (May 06) issue, however, it was enough of a learning curve just getting hold of and processing the source data. In the end we slightly over-ran our May publication target – we hope you will bear with us considering this is our first issue.

*If you do not already have a copy of Adobe Reader you can download it from our website [www.sutherlandtables.co.uk](http://www.sutherlandtables.co.uk)*

We shall also be looking at developing the content of the Tables, in particular the underlying algorithms and assumptions used in producing the data. Other possible areas of development (by no means exhaustive) are the inclusion of different fuel types (eg biomass), other indices of comparison (eg carbon dioxide emissions), changes to the way in which data is sourced (eg a rolling monthly average basis), etc. To this end we would welcome feedback from users of the Tables – though we cannot promise to take on board *all* of your suggestions – we must make sure that we remain objective and also do not wish to overly complicate the Tables which already contain a large amount of information.

Please visit our new website at [www.sutherlandtables.co.uk](http://www.sutherlandtables.co.uk) as often as you like and give us feedback on the service – we want it to be as useful to you as we can make it.



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Regarding the contents of the current issue, it will come as no surprise that the tables show a marked rise in the costs of heating with gas and oil. While expert opinion is still divided (as ever) the consensus seems to be that we are at or near peak oil – the point at which consumption exceeds the rate of new reserves discovered. Since the cheapest reserves are always exploited first, for obvious commercial reasons, those remaining will become ever more costly to extract. LPG, being an oil-derived product, has experienced similar price rises.

Gas also has seen unprecedented price rises, blamed on increases in wholesale costs. Since much of the UK's electricity is now generated from gas-fired power stations, increases in gas costs have a knock-on effect on electricity – and gas reserves, of course, are also finite.

Price reductions from competition in GB have well and truly bottomed out and now, with dwindling reserves and the probability of future duties/taxes/levies for environmental reasons, the only way is up for fossil fuel prices...

...All of which helps focus the mind on energy efficiency – and just as well, with the recent upgrades to the thermal requirements of the Building Regulations!

**[Return to Contents](#)**