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## **Energy saving scheme gives Good Garage Scheme members power to control overheads**

A new energy saving scheme has given members of the UK-wide Good Garage Scheme more power to keep on top of their utility overheads.

Members of the Forté-backed scheme have already made massive savings on utility bills after the self-regulatory organisation linked up with Utility Watch, the UK's fastest growing energy consultant.

Utility Watch is providing Good Garage Scheme members with corporate buying power on commercial gas and electricity contracts to help them make huge savings on current market prices.

Benefits include:

- Guaranteed best price from energy suppliers
- Free consultation and energy procurement with no obligation
- Free contract checker
- Quotes returned in 36 hours

Utility Watch takes Good Garage Scheme members' business to several market providers and uses its buying power to ensure they get the best price available. It is the latest benefit to be offered to members by the Good Garage Scheme [www.goodgaragescheme.com](http://www.goodgaragescheme.com)

Exeter-based XL Autos is just one of the Good Garage Scheme members that has reaped the rewards of the initiative.

Martin Hooper, business partner at XL Autos, said: *"Utility Watch reduced our unit rate by 40 per cent – not bad for a five minute phone call. It's a brilliant idea because it's not something we would have even considered looking at otherwise. It's one of those things you just keep paying each month and don't think about checking and, as a small business, any saving is a good saving."*

Mr Hooper's positive comments were echoed by Kerry Partridge at Haywards Heath-based Lindfield Garage.

*He said: "We knew we were paying over the odds. Utility Watch managed to save us 36 per cent on our unit rate and a further 81 per cent on the standing charge. The whole process was very simple and didn't take any time. The good thing about this is that they let you know when contracts are due for review and look for the best prices for the year ahead. Because the initiative is backed by the Good Garage Scheme, you know you can trust it from the start and it makes my life easier."*

Anndi Sheppard, Marketing Manager of the Good Garage Scheme, said: *"In these times of austerity, garages and workshops, like many other SMEs, need to keep a tight control on their overheads. The scheme we have introduced with Utility Watch is already paying dividends in helping member garages to reduce gas and electricity bills. Although the Utility Watch scheme is at an early stage, I've had an enormous amount of positive feedback which is encouraging as we move forward in 2011."*

Launched by Forté four years ago, the Good Garage Scheme's membership comprises of independent garages, MOT centres and service and repair workshops where customers are assured of service excellence.

Now widely accepted as a mark of quality for independent garages across the UK, Good Garage Scheme garages are recognised as providing exceptional service to their customers based on a rigorously monitored mandatory code of practice. Customers looking for their nearest Good Garage can quickly locate one using the easy-to-use search facility on the Good Garage Scheme website.

The Good Garage Scheme offers its members a host of other benefits, including national TV and radio advertising, bespoke health and safety procedures for garages and an exclusive deal with the RAC to offer 40 per cent discounted breakdown cover for customers and potential customers who visit the Good Garage Scheme website. With a link to the RAC website on [www.goodgaragescheme.com](http://www.goodgaragescheme.com) visitors can find out more about the offer and then return to the Good Garage Scheme site to search for member garages in their area to carry out work.

An App has also been launched for motorists to download free for iPhones, iPads and the iPod Touch, enabling them to find their nearest Good Garage Scheme member garage if they are away from home and run into difficulties with their vehicles.

Additionally the Good Garage Scheme offers its members a free graphic design service, including logos and literature, free legal support, discounted insurance and a discounted parts washer and waste disposal service.

**– ENDS –**

**Editor's note:-**

The Good Garage Scheme was set up as a self-regulatory body for independent workshops and MOT centres throughout the UK to ensure the best industry standards are maintained by its members. It has more than 3,000 members who adhere to a strict Code of Conduct and offer an Industry Standard Service.

Good Garage Scheme members:

- Adhere to a strict Code of Conduct and pledge to have their customers' best interests at heart
- Must agree what work needs doing with their customers before it is carried out
- Work to an Industry Standard Service checklist
- Must supply each customer with a feedback card allowing them to give their views on service directly to the Good Garage Scheme, which operates a stringent complaints procedure

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