



# EMPOWERING SMARTER ENERGY USE WITH THE HOMELINK RESIDENT APP

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# EMPOWERING SMARTER ENERGY USE WITH THE HOMELINK RESIDENT APP

Rising energy costs and growing environmental concerns are prompting households across the UK to take a closer look at how much energy they consume. While many homes now have smart meters, access to clear, meaningful data remains essential if residents are to make informed decisions and actively change their energy consumption behaviour. Aico's HomeLINK technology offers an enhanced level of insight, enabling residents to better understand their energy use and take practical steps to reduce their consumption and in turn reduce their energy bills.

*"Having worked at Aico for several years, I have seen first-hand how Aico's HomeLINK technology supports residents in social housing. To further explore its potential, I installed the HomeLINK Gateway in my own home to better understand and manage my energy consumption."*

**Martin Przewozny**  
Relationship Manager at Aico





# UNDERSTANDING MY ENERGY CONSUMPTION

In 2025, I had solar panels and a battery storage system installed at my home with the aim of reducing overall electricity usage and energy bills. Alongside this, I already had a smart meter installed, which I connected to the HomeLINK Resident App via the Ei1000G Gateway.



This integration allowed me to monitor grid electricity usage in real time, providing a clear view of how much energy was being imported from the grid and how much I was spending. While the HomeLINK Resident App does not directly display solar generation or battery performance, it clearly shows changes in grid consumption, making it easy to assess the impact of renewable energy technologies.

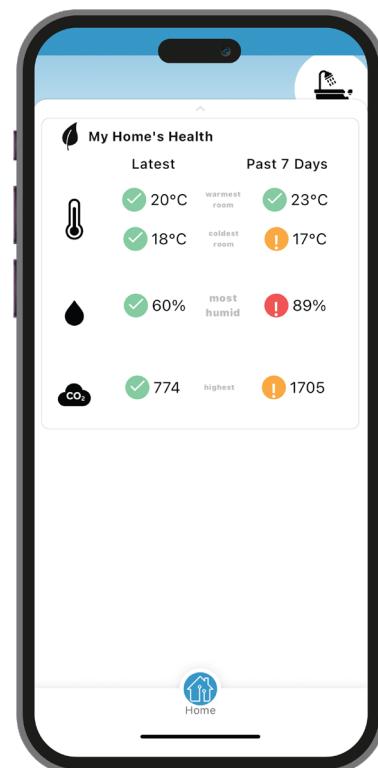
Crucially, the app also enabled a comparison of grid electricity use before and after the installation of solar panels. Prior to this, I had limited visibility of when electricity was being used or whether any changes in behaviour made a measurable difference. Like many households, I was concerned about rising energy bills but lacked the data needed to support informed decision-making.

# USING HOMELINK TO INFLUENCE BEHAVIOUR

Connecting the smart meter to the HomeLINK Resident App was a straightforward process. Once connected, the app provided clear, accessible data on how much energy I imported from the grid throughout the day.

By reviewing time-of-day usage patterns, I was able to identify periods of higher electricity demand and begin adjusting household behaviour accordingly. For example, energy-intensive activities such as using the washing machine, tumble dryer, or dishwasher could be shifted to off-peak times, which in turn would save money.

The ability to compare historical and current energy consumption was particularly valuable, as it demonstrated whether these behaviour changes were having a measurable difference. This level of visibility made energy use more transparent and encouraged more conscious daily decisions.





## KEY INSIGHTS

After the first month of monitoring, several clear patterns emerged from the HomeLINK Resident App:

- Grid electricity use during daylight hours was significantly lower compared to the period before the solar panel installation.
- Evening and peak-time grid usage gradually reduced as household behaviour adapted.
- Time-of-day data helped identify opportunities to shift high-energy activities to more efficient periods.

In addition to the solar panels, a 5.5 kWh battery was installed. During the summer months, this battery is predominantly charged using solar energy generated during the day, with stored energy then used after sunset and overnight. My energy provider also offers an off-peak overnight tariff of approximately £0.06 per kWh. This tariff allows the battery to charge at a lower cost when solar generation is insufficient.

During peak hours, particularly in autumn and winter, the battery supplies stored energy, reducing the need to import electricity when prices are highest. This was an effective way to reduce my energy bills.

# RESULTS

The HomeLINK app clearly illustrates the solar panel installation in April, followed by a noticeable reduction in grid energy consumption.



The app displays an increase in energy usage during autumn and winter due to an overnight battery charging at the lower tariff of £0.06 per kWh.



## Before Installing Solar Panels

The app displays daily electricity consumption which highlights higher overall costs.



## After Installing Solar Panels

The app displays hourly grid usage which has been significantly reduced. It also highlights the 1am battery charging during the cheaper overnight tariff period.



## CONCLUSION

While many households can access basic energy data through their smart meters, the HomeLINK Resident App provides deeper, more actionable insights into electricity usage, particularly if comparing renewable energy to the grid. This experience demonstrated how valuable clear data can be in understanding real-world energy consumption to influence behaviours in the home.

By using the HomeLINK Resident App in conjunction with a smart meter, I was able to track changes in grid electricity use over time and make informed decisions about when and how energy was consumed in the home. For residents considering solar panels or battery storage, HomeLINK offers a powerful way to visualise energy usage with the aim of reducing energy bills.



## aico CASE STUDY



If you would like to learn more about Aico's HomeLINK technology, get in touch by emailing [enquiries@aico.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aico.co.uk) or visiting [aico.co.uk](http://aico.co.uk)

