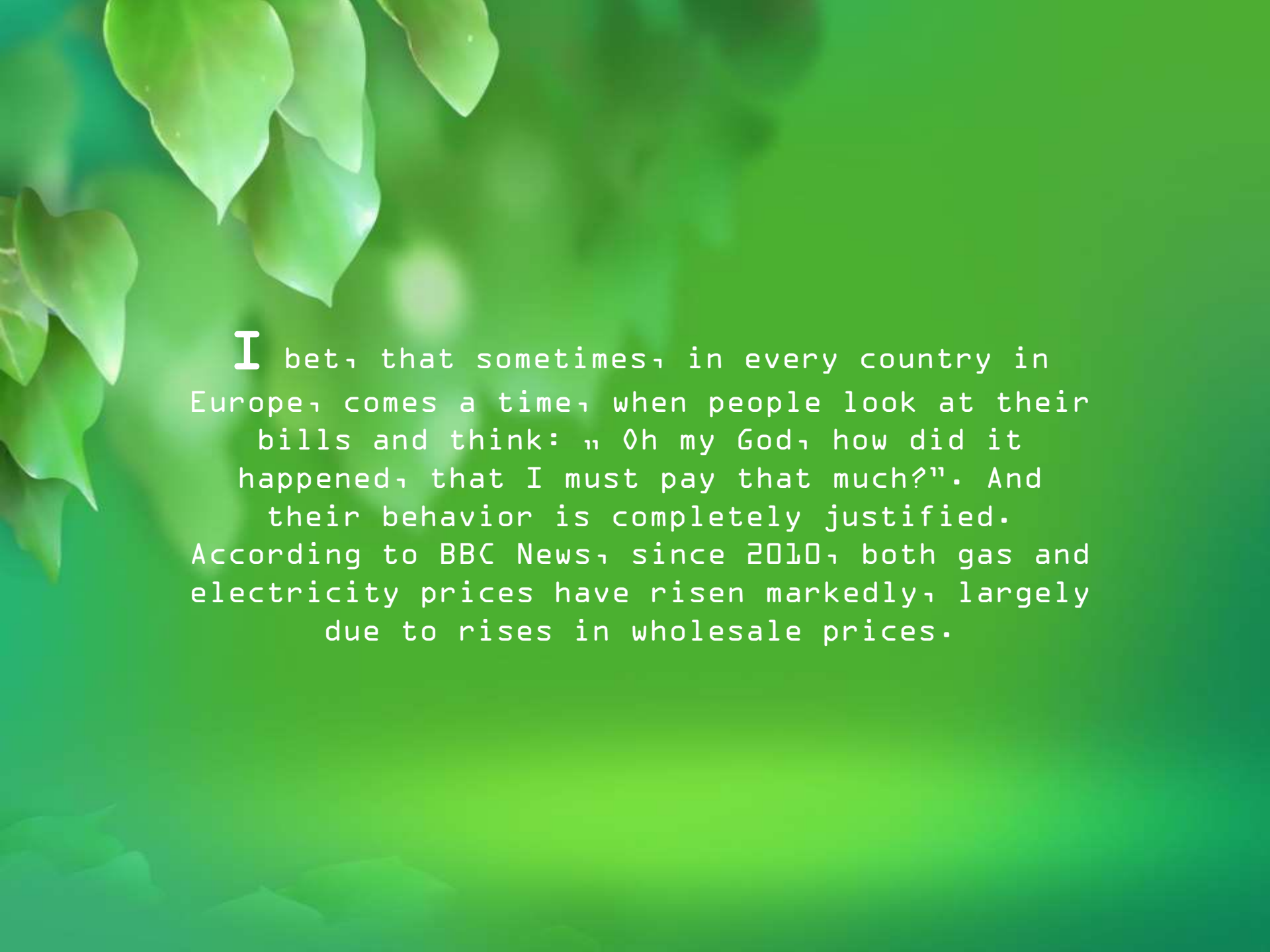


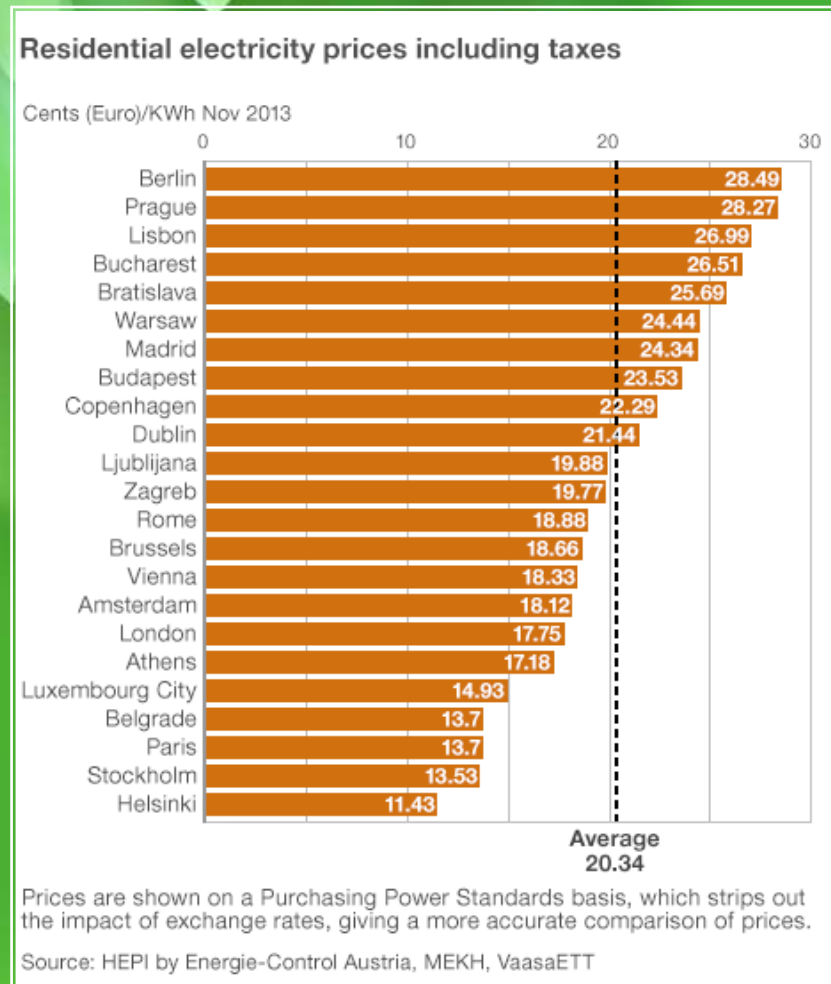
Thrifty and in harmony with  
nature:  
to be, or not to be?



The background is a vibrant green gradient. In the upper left corner, there are several bright green leaves, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a natural, organic feel. The rest of the background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

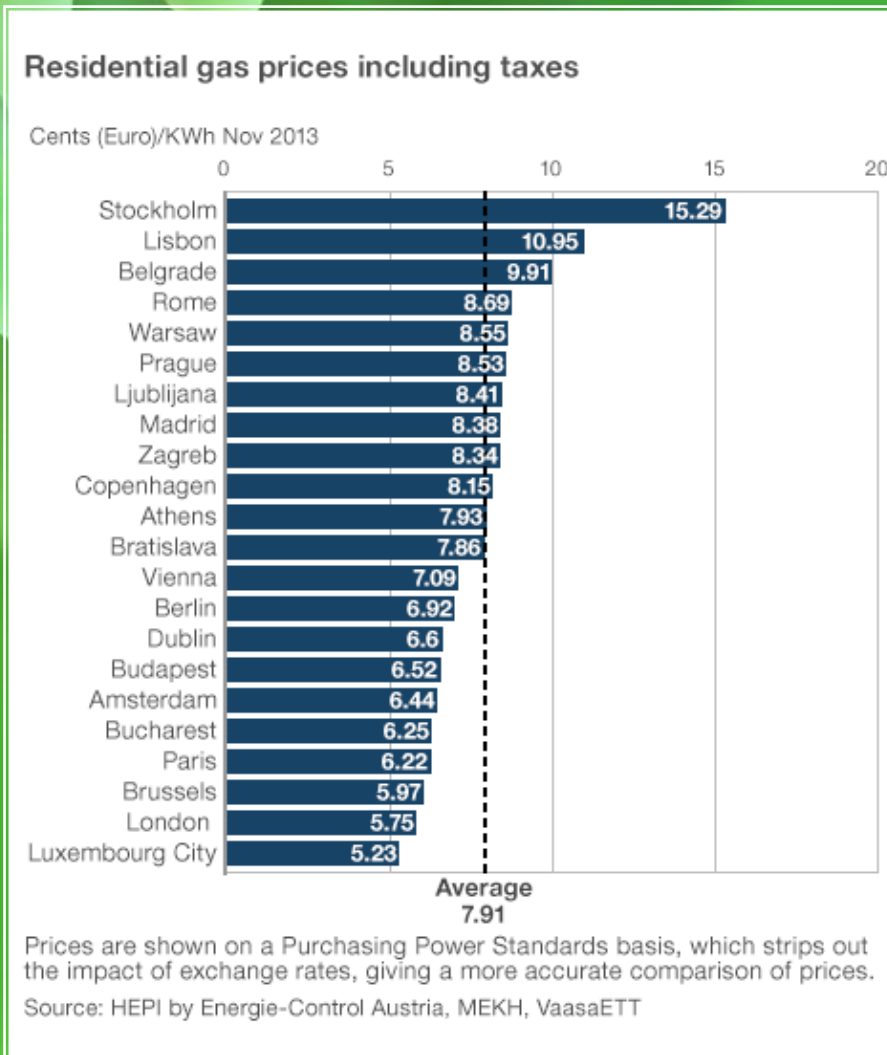
**I** bet, that sometimes, in every country in Europe, comes a time, when people look at their bills and think: „ Oh my God, how did it happened, that I must pay that much?“. And their behavior is completely justified. According to BBC News, since 2010, both gas and electricity prices have risen markedly, largely due to rises in wholesale prices.

Let's see, how various European countries deal with their energy bills:



As we can see, the cheapest of the 23 European cities surveyed for electricity prices is Helsinki. For comparison, people who live in Berlin, have to pay two-and-a-half times that much.

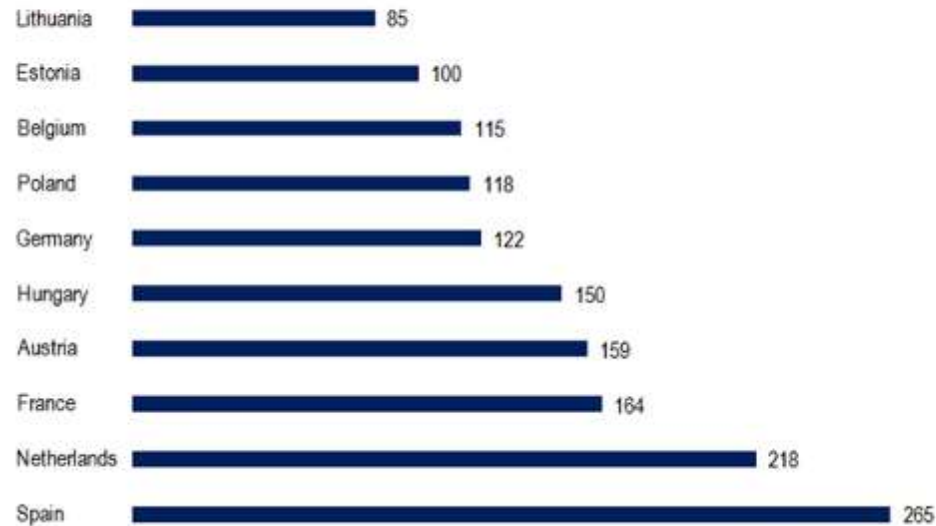
Let's move on to another case: gas prices.



Gas prices are also very different. In Stockholm - the most expensive city - people have to pay three times more than those in the cheapest, Luxembourg City. Why? Simply because the gas market is so small - there are only 33,000 households buying gas in the whole Sweden.

Another European problem is water. Look at this diagram:

Daily water use in selected European countries in 2012 [liter/day]



Source: OECD

The average person in England uses around 150 litres per day. In Spain - 265 litres, etc. These huge differences are due to different water prices across Europe.

So, the question is:

# What can I do to pay less?

There are few tips you can follow to make it happen.



1. Check the condition of your electrical devices - for example, cleaning with filled vacuum cleaner is the additional consumption of energy.

2. You need to remember, that leaving charger in wall socket, even though your phone isn't charging, doesn't mean that energy is not absorbed.



3. New electrical devices often consumes less power than the older ones. When you are buying new washing machine or fridge, you should necessarily pay attention to the energy class of it.



4 • Eat just prepared meals with whole family - reheating food will increase your bills.



5 • Try to wash more of your clothes, but less often.





The background is a vibrant green gradient. In the top-left corner, there are several bright green leaves, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a natural, organic feel. The main text is centered in a white, monospaced font.

Well, that's it. Hope you  
like it. Thanks!

Sources:

[bbc.com](http://bbc.com)

[Atrium21.pl](#)

Agata Kuciak