

Home Energy Improvement



Benefits to saving energy and energy efficiency



Improving your home's energy efficiency will save you money.



Energy efficient homes are cheaper to run and maintain.



Improving household energy efficiency will increase the indoor thermal comfort of your home throughout the year.



Increased control over energy bills.

Behavioural changes

Behavioural changes can be very effective in reducing the energy usage of your house and will cost you nothing.

Ensure you turn off appliances when you are finished with them.

- Turn off TVs, computers or game consoles when they are not in use.
- Turn them off at the power point as appliances in standby can still draw power.

Hang your washed clothes outside where the sun and wind can dry them out.

- Limit the use of clothes driers, as these are a major user of household energy.
- Ultraviolet rays from natural sunshine naturally kills some bacteria.
- Bring clothes inside if necessary, to allow them to finish drying.

Limit time spent in the shower.

- Use a shower timer to help keep showers to 4 minutes or less.
- Turn your water off while shampooing and soaping up.

Make a conscious effort to remember to switch lights off when you leave a room.

- Turn off lights in rooms that are not being used.

Open or close windows where possible instead of using air-conditioners or heaters to control the internal temperature of your home.

- Depending on the season set your heater or air-conditioner thermostat to a temperature between 23-26°C for comfort and energy efficiency.


Appliances with high-energy star ratings.

- Purchase high energy star rated appliances.
- These appliances consume less energy and have lower costs over a lifetime of use.

Involve children and others in the energy saving process.

- Teach kids about the importance of being energy efficient.
- Include children in conversations about energy usage.

 = low cost

 = medium cost

 = higher cost

Heating and cooling

Preventing thermal loss in your home is a simple way to save on your bills.

Draught excluder (door snake)

- Can be a single tube or double tube and are fabric filled with some insulative material that will help block draughts under doors.
- If used properly, they will stop the airflow underneath the doors in your home.
- Make your own door snake
www.ecomatters.org.nz/diy-door-snake/

Draught seal tape

- A tape that is used around your windows or door frames to stop draughts coming in through the gaps.
- It is easy to install and can be purchased from any local hardware or home improvement store.

Close your blinds

- In the summer keep your blinds closed, especially on north and west-facing windows, to significantly cool your home.
- Better yet, invest in some block-out curtains to shield your home from that harsh summer sun.

Block the heat

- Stopping heat getting into your house in the first place means spending less on cooling.
- Shade windows and walls using external coverings, like blinds, awnings, or large potted plants.

Hot water systems

Hot water systems can use a lot of energy. Here is how you can make some savings.

Fix leaking taps

- Leaking taps are a simple fix and will reduce the amount of water wasted.

Install low flow shower heads

- By installing low flow shower heads, less water is being used so less water needs to be heated.

Lighting

Lighting is an aspect of your home's energy consumption, where you can make significant savings.

Replace older halogen style globes with more efficient compatible globes

- LED (Light Emitting Diode) or CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lamp) globes use as little as 20% of the energy of equivalent halogen globes; replacing them will generate significant savings.

Harness solar energy

- Make use of solar rebates for both homeowners and renters to harness solar energy. Rooftop solar energy systems will enable you to reduce energy bills and secure you from the rising cost of energy.

Appliances

On average, appliances contribute to about 33% of a household's energy usage.

Install a standby power controller to your home entertainment system or computer

- Appliances in standby mode still use electricity, this power usage is known as Vampire energy.

- A standby power controller is an easy way to switch off unused appliances, reducing wasted power. They reduce the amount of time these devices spend in standby mode and switch them off when they are not in use.

Additional information



If you found this information useful, more information is valuable online
www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/homeenergyefficiency

This information was produced in collaboration with students at Federation University.