

It's Easy to Live ENERGY Smart

Australian households spend up to \$1500 on energy bills every year. Around 90% of that energy comes from burning fossil fuels like coal, which release the harmful greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

But there is a simple way to both help the environment and boost your budget.

By making smart choices when buying products and building or renovating your home, you can save hundreds of dollars on your energy bill and halve your household greenhouse gas emissions.



Why **SAVE** Energy?

Most electricity in Australia is generated by burning coal, which emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, trapping heat and increasing global temperatures. It is the most greenhouse intensive form of energy production.

In NSW over 90% of electricity comes from coal-fired power stations. Households are responsible for a third of all NSW's energy use. Electricity consumed by the average household causes twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as the family car every year!

This brochure will give you tips on how to live more energy efficiently, reducing your energy bill and your greenhouse gas emissions.



HOT Water

Hot water accounts for up to half of your home's energy consumption. Here's some tips:

- ✓ Use cold water in your washing machine and only operate with full loads
- ✓ Fitting AAA-rated shower heads can reduce your hot water usage by up to half.

By installing a solar or heat pump water heater, you can save thousands of dollars on your hot water bills over the lifetime of the system.



HEATING your home

It's easy to keep your home warm without it costing you a fortune. Follow these tips:

- ✓ Close doors to unused rooms when the heater is on – this can halve your heating costs.
- ✓ Turning your heater down 1° C can reduce your bills by 10%.

If purchasing a heater, be sure to look for their energy rating label – the higher the number of stars you see, the more you can save on running costs.



KITCHEN

- ✓ When buying a refrigerator, freezer or dishwasher, choose one with a high star energy rating.
- ✓ Make sure your refrigerator doors seals are airtight.
- ✓ Turning off your drinks fridge, when not in use, could save up to \$60 a year off your energy bill.
- ✓ Much of the energy used by ovens is wasted. Use alternatives such as microwaves, electric fry pans or pressure cookers.



LIGHTING

- ✓ Compact fluorescent light bulbs last up to 10 times longer than regular incandescent light bulbs and use a lot less energy.
- ✓ Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- ✓ Use task lighting rather than whole room lighting when a small amount of focused light is required, for example, a desk lamp while studying.



INSULATION

A well insulated home can be up to 10°C warmer in winter and up to 7°C cooler in summer.

- ✓ Insulate in the roof and ceiling, and save between 20-40% on heating and cooling costs.
- ✓ External wall insulation can save you an additional 10-60% on energy costs.
- ✓ Draught-proof your home. In winter, your heating costs can increase by up to 25% because of draughts.



COOLING your home

If your home is designed with the correct solar orientation, artificial cooling systems should be unnecessary. But if that's not the case for you, follow these tips:

- ✓ External window shading – awnings, eaves and external blinds – is the most effective way to keep your home cool.
- ✓ Open windows and ventilate the house when the outside temperature is lower than inside.
- ✓ Buy an air-conditioner with a 5 or 6 star energy rating.
- ✓ Run exhaust fans in kitchens and bathrooms to flush out hot air overnight.



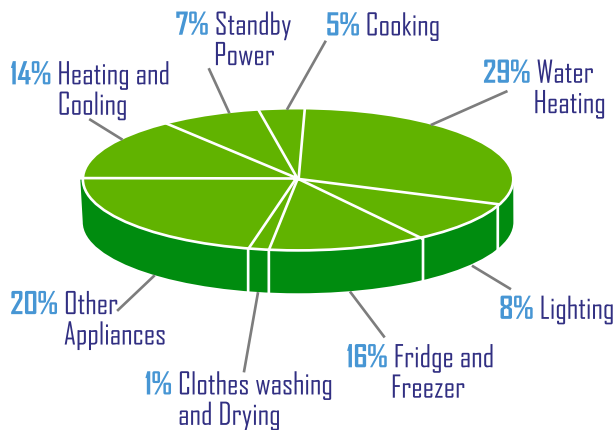
GREENHOUSE and You!

There is widespread agreement that global climate is changing as a result of human - induced emissions of greenhouse gas. Port Macquarie - Hastings Council is a member of the Cities for Climate Protection (CCPTM) Program, which is a program that assists local councils and their communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Just about every time we switch on the light or turn on an appliance, we are contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. In 1996, the Hastings community produced over 550,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases and this figure is predicted to increase to approximately 850,000 tonnes by the year 2010 if we don't act to reduce emissions.

Local government and communities have a vital role to play in Australia's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need your help!

TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



CHOOSING Renewable Energy



Green Power is electricity generated from clean renewable sources such as the sun, wind, water and organic matter.

By choosing a government accredited Green power product, you can have 100% of your households energy usage generated from renewable resources. This provides huge savings in greenhouse gas emissions and helps protect our precious environment.

To find out how to subscribe to GREEN POWER phone your energy retailer.

Port Macquarie - Hastings Council

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Tips on SAVING MONEY in your home.

For further information:

NSW Government
www.energysmart.com.au

The Australian Greenhouse Office
1300 130 606
www.greenhouse.gov.au

PORT MACQUARIE - HASTINGS COUNCIL

PO Box 84
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Ph: 6581 8111
Fax: 6581 8788
www.hastings.nsw.gov.au



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A sustainable high quality of life for all.

This brochure has been developed using information and graphics from the NSW Government's printed and electronic information.