

WASHING CLOTHES



AIR
DRY



SWITCH OFF STAND-BY

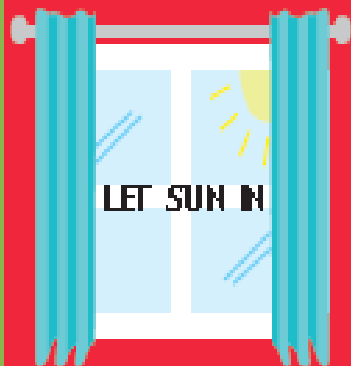


TURN
OFF AT
THE
WALL



SAVE
\$\$\$

HEATING



TEMP



COOLING



TEMP



21°C
to
23°C



RURAL CITY OF
WANGARATTA

HOME SAVERS

Simple ways to reduce your
household bills

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INTRODUCTION

You can make changes to your home to make it more comfortable, save energy, water, waste AND money, PLUS reduce your environmental impact as well. With the smallest effort, there are many simple things you can do to make a difference at very little or no cost.

This is a Rural City of Wangaratta initiative and received funding from The Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

DISCLAIMER: Generally, for any changes you wish to make to rental properties you must receive permission, often in writing, from the landlord.

**The following information is a guide only.*

SAVINGS TIPS FOR THE WHOLE HOUSE

This booklet is designed to help households reduce their home's energy and water use without the need for major home renovations. Many actions can be done at zero or low cost, or through small changes in your behaviour. Start out with small and easy changes and remember to ask for owner permission when required.

Lighting

Let in natural light: Open blinds and curtains to let in natural light, rather than turning on lights.

Turn off lights when not in use: If you're not using a room or outdoor area, turn the lights off to save. Leaving outdoor lights on for a long time can greatly increase your lighting bill.

Upgrade globes: When able, upgrade light globes, including lamps, to energy efficient CFL or LED globes. They last longer and use a lot less energy.

Don't use halogen downlights: Replace inefficient halogen downlights with energy efficient globes, if possible. Alternatively, use floor and table lamps with energy efficient globes and leave halogen downlights turned off.

HEATING AND COOLING

Heating and cooling are the most energy hungry activities in a home, but it doesn't take much effort to reduce their impact.

Pull on a jumper: Before turning on the heater, put on a jumper. By dressing appropriately for the weather you reduce the need for turning on the heater or air conditioner. Fans cost a lot less to run than AC, so use a fan instead.

Use heaters and air conditioners wisely: Changing the thermostat temperature by just 1°C can reduce energy use by 10%. In Winter, set thermostat to 18-21°C. In Summer set to 24 - 27°C.

Heat and cool only what you need: Only heat or cool rooms you are using, and keep the heat or cool in by closing doors and windows, including internal and external blinds.

Cool and heat the house naturally: On hot, still days close all windows, doors and curtains to help keep the house cool. And when a cool change arrives, take advantage of it by opening windows and doors to let the cooling breeze through the house.

Hang heavy, lined curtains: Heavy, lined curtains (or blankets) keep heat in during winter and heat out on hot summer days. For best results hang to the floor.

Install pelmets: Pelmets are covers over the top of curtains, and they stop draughts, but this would need to be discussed with home owner. Alternatively, use a rolled towel, blanket or strips of thick cardboard over the top of curtains for temporary, removable pelmets.

HEATING AND COOLING

Set timer switches: Set timers on your heaters or cooler to switch off when not needed.

Direct the heat: If your house has central heating consider buying vent directors. These are inexpensive and can be placed over vents to help direct the air into the centre of the room instead of straight up to the ceiling.

Seal gaps and draughts: Stop draughts by closing gaps around doors and windows. Some seals are inexpensive and simple to remove. Alternatively use 'door snakes'.

Shade your windows: In summer place a removable external blind, shade cloth or outdoor umbrella over a window to shield it from the sun. Inexpensive, removable, reflective film can also be temporarily attached inside windows to reflect the hot sun. Permanent shade solutions would need to be discussed with the landlord.

Add window insulation: Bubble wrap is actually a simple and cost effective way to add insulation to windows.

HEATING AND COOLING EFFICIENTLY

Keep systems clean and serviced regularly to ensure efficient operation. Use economy mode if able.

Split system: Check the mode is correct. If the controller isn't working you may need new batteries. For standard split systems, the grille on the front flips to reveal mesh filters. These filters easily slide out and need to be vacuumed to remove dust, to ensure the system operates efficiently. (Remember to dust the front of the unit as well.)

Fans: Some ceiling fans can be switched from Summer to Winter and vice versa. If it's hot, but not humid, place a shallow bowl of ice in front of a portable fan and enjoy the breeze. Wrap ice cubes in a tea towel and apply to your neck to cool you down too.

Evaporative cooling: You can use ice cubes and chilled water in portable evaporative coolers for an even more cooling breeze, but evaporative coolers do not work well in humid weather.

Remember to adjust temperatures when you go to sleep and when you leave the house, to save energy.

SAVINGS TIPS FOR EACH ROOM

Living room

Turn appliances off at the power point when not using:

Many appliances such as DVDs, TVs, microwaves, phone chargers, game consoles and computers use electricity on 'standby' when they are not used, if left switched on. Standby power can account for as much as 10% of your home energy bill, so turn appliances off at the wall to save. To make it easier to switch off, DVDs and TVs could be plugged into a power board that is easy to reach. Mobile phones may not need to be plugged into a charger all night to recharge.

Turn off computer monitors: Set your computer to enter 'sleep' mode after a certain amount of inactivity time. Turn the computer monitor off when you are not using it to save.

Choose an LED computer monitor: LED or LCD monitors use less than half the electricity of conventional monitors. Turning brightness down can cut energy use by a quarter. Monitors now come with energy rating, so you can see how much energy a specific monitor will likely use over the course of a year.

Don't super-size the TV: A simple rule of thumb is the bigger the TV, the more energy it will use. Indeed, some larger TV models use more energy than a standard-sized fridge. This is particularly the case for plasma TVs. LCD and LED TVs use significantly less energy to run than plasma.

<http://yourenergysavings.gov.au/actions>

Reach for the stars:

When buying appliances look for the energy rating label. The more stars, the more energy efficient the appliance, however, also look at energy consumption as shown in kilowatt hours per year.

<http://www.energyrating.gov.au/>

Kitchen

Avoid opening the fridge door too often: In most houses, the fridge uses more power than any other appliance. To cut energy use, try to limit the number of times you open the fridge door. Limit the amount of time the fridge door is open and never leave it open.

Don't place hot items in the fridge: Wait until food has cooled down before placing in the fridge.

Get the temperature right: The recommended operating fridge temperature is 3°C to 5°C. For freezers, the recommended range is -15°C to -18°C.

KITCHEN

Switch off the second fridge: If you have a second fridge (such as a drinks fridge) consider how often it is really used. Turn it on only when you really need to use it.

Keep the fridge well ventilated: Provide at least 50mm of space at the top, back and sides to improve ventilation and allow your fridge to work at its best.

Place the fridge in a cool spot: Keep fridges and freezers away from direct sun and other heat sources such as stoves .

Check fridge seals: Check and clean seals on your fridge to make sure the door closes securely. Regularly remove any frost build-up in the freezer.

Boil only the water you need: Use an electric jug instead of the electric stovetop to boil water. Fill the jug with only as much water as you need. The less water boiled, the less energy used.

Run a full load in the dishwasher: Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it. It wastes a lot of energy and water to clean only a small number of dishes.

Cooking toast: Cooking toast in a toaster instead of the grill reduces energy use by up to 75%. Using a microwave instead of electric stove, where practicable, can also be more energy efficient.

BATHROOM

Have short showers: Take showers of 4 minutes or less to save both water and energy. Use a timer as a reminder.

Check flow rates of your showerheads: Check your shower's flow rate on the showerhead. If there's no rate written on the showerhead you can measure the flow rate by turning on the shower at its normal rate for 30 seconds and capturing the water in a bucket. Measure how many litres of water are in the bucket and double the figure to get the flow rate. Inefficient showerheads can use more than 15 litres per minute; a Water efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) four-star rated showerhead uses 7 litres per minute. And remember that the water requires heating, so the more efficient the showerhead, the less energy will be required to heat the volume of water.

Laundry

Wash a full load in cold water: Washing clothes in cold water saves energy. Make sure you wash a full load of clothes. Not only will you save water but the less you use the washing machine the more energy you save.

Hang it up: Avoid using electric clothes dryer. Use the clothes line or a rack outside to dry clothes. During wet weather use a clothes rack inside the house.

Buy energy and water efficient appliances: If you need a new washing machine check the energy and water star ratings. Look for the highest star rating and buy the right size for your needs.

<http://www.waterrating.gov.au/>

Concessions

Remember to ensure pension or health care cards are registered with energy and water providers to receive concessions. Phone: 1800 658 521 for information.

REDUCING WASTE

REFUSE >REPAIR >RE-USE >REDUCE >RECYCLE

There are some simple things you can do to reduce your waste and you may even save some money. Remember to buy second-hand products if you can.

1. Add NO JUNK MAIL to your letterbox
2. Say NO to plastic bags and take your own reusable bags instead
3. Use reusable containers instead of glad wrap
4. Stop using disposable plates, cups and cutlery
5. Use washable cloths, instead of paper towel
7. Buy products without packaging, or with recyclable packaging when you can.

Local recycling tips:

*Recycle used batteries and mobile phones at Council building

*Recycle clean plastic bags at selected supermarkets

See council's website for more information

<http://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/services/waste>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Websites

Rural City of Wangaratta www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Sustainability Victoria www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

Energy compare www.compare.switchon.vic.gov.au

Energy concessions 1800658521 dhs.vic.gov.au

Energy rating appliances energyrating.gov.au

Energy & water ombudsman 1800500509 ewov.com.au

Energy bill guide energyinfohub.org.au

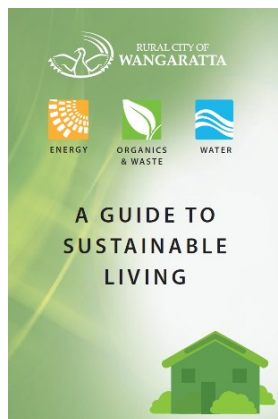
Energy Made Easy www.energymadeeasy.gov.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

*'A Guide to Sustainable Living' is available from
the Wangaratta
Government Centre corner Ford and Ovens
Streets and
Council's website*

www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au

*Contact the Sustainability team for further
information on 5722 0888*





RURAL CITY OF
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**For further information please
contact Council's Sustainability
team on (03) 5722 0888 or email**

council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au

or visit Council's website
www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au

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