

FACTSHEET #5

#RECYCLERIGHT



SAVING ENERGY

Use this guide to save on electricity costs, stay comfortable in the heat and reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

COOLING

- Set the air-conditioner to 25°C, every degree cooler uses 10% more electricity. If using at night, set to a sleep function, or use a cheap plug in timer. Closing the doors to rooms not in use will also cool the area more quickly and keep it cooler for longer.
- Ceiling fans are one of the lowest consuming appliances and should be used where possible.

LIGHTING

- Lighting accounts for 10% of average household electricity budgets. Keep switched off when not in use and switch to compact fluorescent or LED bulbs.

KITCHEN

- Set the fridge to 4°C and freezer to -18°C.
- If you run two fridges, try to use your second fridge when you really need it. Turning off your second fridge for at least six months a year, could save around \$150.

KITCHEN

- Electric hot water systems account for around 30% of electricity in our homes.
- Save by installing a water saving showerhead, washing clothes in cold water and taking shorter showers.
- Connect to an economy tariff (Tariff 31 or 33).
- Consider switching to a solar or heat pump hot water system with a one-shot relay, particularly if it's showing signs of age.

POOL

- Connect your pool pump to an economy tariff and you could cut running costs by up to 19%, or upgrade to an efficient pool pump to save even more. For most pools, pumping 6-8 hours/day in summer or 2-4 hours/day in winter is enough.

APPLIANCES

Home appliances use around 25% of a household's energy:

- Switch appliances off at the wall when not in use.
- Consider the long-term running costs of new appliances, not just the upfront purchase cost.
- Look for the Energy Rating Logo. The more stars, the more savings over the life of the product.
- Clothes driers are energy hungry. Consider drying in the sun or setting up an under-cover clothesline.



RENOVATIONS AND DESIGN TIPS

- Use light colours on roofs and walls to help reflect sunlight and heat.
- Use a mix of bulk and reflection insulation. Aim for R-4.1 value for the roof and R-2.8 for walls to keep your home cool, and always seek advice from an electrician if installing yourself.
- Extend eaves to 800mm or use trees to shade walls.
- Vegetation can also reduce the radiant heat of nearby pavements and are more effective than artificial structures once established.
- Allow heat to escape with improved ventilation such as whirlybirds or ridge roof ventilators.

FIND OUT MORE

- Ergon Network - Managing Energy Tips and handbook, Energy Sense Home
- Australian Government - Your Home guide to environmentally sustainable homes



Before disposing of anything, have you considered ways to reuse, repair or donate unwanted items?
Visit msc.qld.gov.au/council/water-and-waste/recycling for further information.