

As the costs of electricity rises, your energy bill is one of the biggest expenses you incur. To help you manage your energy costs, we have put together some handy advice on how to minimise your household energy consumption throughout the year.

Quick tips

1. Close the doors to unused rooms to reduce the area that you need to heat or cool

2. Turn off your heating/air conditioning overnight or when you're not home

3. Make sure you maintain your heating and cooling appliances so that it doesn't use as much energy to run

4. Keep curtains and outside window shades closed to reduce the amount of energy required to maintain a consistent temperature inside your home

5. Use an electric blanket or hot water bottle rather than heating your bedroom during the winter months

Big ideas

1. To avoid losing heat in your home in the winter months, check that your ceiling, external walls and floors are sufficiently insulated

2. Choosing the right curtains and outside window coverings will create a consistent temperature inside your home and help reduce your power bills

3. Check that your ducts are properly sealed to increase the effectiveness of your heating/cooling

Need help paying your bill?

Electricity and gas companies recognise that there are times when some customers struggle to pay their bills due to various financial difficulties or changes in personal circumstances. To help, they offer a range of assistance options:

- Extended time for repayment
- Information about government concessions, rebates and payments
- Quick and easy payment arrangements (including Centrepay) that will assist you to pay smaller, manageable amounts over a longer period
- Information on low cost, no cost tips to save on energy and your bills
- Information about community agencies who offer assistance

If you are experiencing difficulties then let your electricity provider know as soon as possible. The customer service representatives can then work out a payment arrangement to suit your circumstances

EnergyAssist

For customers experiencing longer term financial difficulties the EnergyAssist program offers additional assistance measures to help you manage your use and payments. Call 13 15 35 or if you require interpreter assistance please call 13 14 50. www.energyaustralia.com.au.

*Source: Energy Australia - Energy wise issue 20 http://www.energyaustralia.com.au/_media/energyaustralia_nsw/documents/products_and_services/electricity/AUG0010_EnergyWise_20_Web.pdf



Energy Costs

It makes good energy sense to know how much electricity the appliances in your home use. The information here will assist you in calculating indicative costs* for your home's electricity usage. The following table is based on Ergon Energy's domestic rate – Tariff 11 – charged at 22.759 cents^ per kWh.

* Please note: The following table is a guide only and shouldn't be used to check your bill. Actual running costs will vary depending upon how you use particular appliances, their age, energy efficiency and such factors as the size of your family, personal preferences and weather conditions.

| Cooling | | Cost per hour |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Air conditioners - cooling | 2kW (6800 BTUs) | 13 cents |
| | 2.5kW (8500 BTUs) | 16 cents |
| | 3.5kW (12000 BTUs) | 22 cents |
| | 4.3kW (14700 BTUs) | 25 cents |
| | 5kW (17000 BTUs) | 33 cents |
| | 6.1kW (21000 BTUs) | 40 cents |
| | 6.9kW (23500 BTUs) | 49 cents |
| Evaporative air cooler | Portable | 3 cents |
| | Ducted | 34 cents |
| Fans | Desk/pedestal fan | 1 cent |
| | Ceiling fan – 1200 mm | 2 cents |
| Heating | | Cost per hour |
| Room heating | Radiator – 2400 watts | 55 cents |
| | Portable fan heater – 2400 watts | 55 cents |
| | Oil filled heater – 1200 watts | 27 cents |
| | Oil filled heater – 2400 watts | 55 cents |
| Reverse cycle air conditioners | 1.7kW (6000 BTUs) | 8 cents |
| | | 11 cents |
| | 2.5kW (8500 BTUs) | TT CELLS |
| | 3.8kW (13000 BTUs) | 15 cents |
| | | |
| | 3.8kW (13000 BTUs) | 15 cents |

^ GST inclusive. A service fee of \$8.76 per month applies. Tariffs effective from 1 July 2011.



| Kitchen | | Cost per hour |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Coffee Maker | | 13 cents |
| Dishwasher | | 19 cents |
| Electric range | Oven | 25 cents |
| | Gilling Element | 25 cents |
| | Hotplate- small | 11 cents |
| | Hotplate - large | 14 cents |
| Food blender or mixer | | 7 cents |
| Freezer: Chest* | 140-220 litre | 1 cents |
| | 250-340 litre | 2 cents |
| Freezer: Upright* | 220 litre | 2 cents |
| | 300 litre | 3 cents |
| Fridge* | Bar, 65-85 litre | 1 cents |
| | 1 door, 140-220 litre | 2 cents |
| | 2 door cyclic defrost, 320-440 litre | 3 cents |
| | 2 door frost free, 320-440 litre | 5 cents |
| | 2 door frost free, 510-610 litre | 6 cents |
| Frypan | | 12 cents |
| Garbage disposal | | 10 cents |
| Kettle or jug | | 55 cents |
| Microwave oven | 800 watts | 32 cents |
| Microwave/convection oven | | 33 cents |
| Rangehood/exhaust fan | | 1 cents |
| Sandwich press/maker | | 17 cents |
| Toaster | 2 slice | 25 cents |
| | 4 slice | 41 cents |
| *Reminder that your fridge and freeze | er use electricity 24 hours a day. | |



| Around the home | | Cost per hour | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| Entertainment Games | X Box | 10 cents | |
| | Playstation 2 | 1 cents | |
| | Playstation 3 | 19 cents | |
| | Wii | 1 cents | |
| Stereo | Mini | 1 cents | |
| | Modular unit | 3 cents | |
| Set top box | SD/HD | 1 cents | |
| | Pay TV | 3 cents | |
| Television | CRT | 5 cents | |
| | Plasma | 10 cents | |
| | LCD | 5 cents | |
| | LED | 3 cents | |
| Video cassette recorder/ DVD player | | 2 cents | |
| Home Office | Computer and monitor | 10 cents | |
| | Laptop | 4 cents | |
| | Modem | 1 cents | |
| | Printer | 18 cents | |
| | Mobile phone charger | 1 cents | |
| Lighting | Incandescent lamp 100 watts | 2.3 cents | |
| | Fluorescent 36 watts | 0.9 cents | |
| | Compact fluorescent | 0.4 cents | |
| Vacuum cleaner | | 34 cents | |
| Bedroom | | | |
| Electric Blanket | | 1 cents | |
| Water bed heater | | 2 cents | |



| Bathroom | | Cost per hour |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Bathroom light/heater - 4 lamps | | 15 cents |
| Exhaust fan | | 2 cents |
| Hair dryer | | 22 cents |
| Hair straightener/curler | | 11 cents |
| Water heating showers#. Per shower. For a 4 minute shower using a normal showerhead | Tariff 11 | 49 cents |
| | Tarriff 33 | 29 cents |
| | Tarriff 31 | 20 cents |
| For a 4 minute shower using an energy efficient showerhead | Tariff 11 | 22 cents |
| | Tarriff 33 | 13 cents |
| | Tarriff 31 | 9 cents |
| Water heating, washing and cleaning. Per 30 litres. Based on a usage of 30 litres of hot water. | Tariff 11 | 46 cents |
| | Tarriff 33 | 27 cents |
| | Tarriff 31 | 19 cents |
| Laundry | | Cost per hour |
| Clothes dryer - 5 kg | | 55 cents |
| Iron | | 19 cents |
| Washing machine | Top load | 14 cents |
| | Front load | 7 cents |
| # Based on a normal showerhead using 20litres per minute, an energy and 40% hot water content for both | efficient showerhead usi | ng 9 litres per minute |
| Outdoors | | Cost per hour |
| Electric drill/sander | | 34 cents |
| Electric blower/whipper snipper | | 5 cents |
| Outdoor spotlight | 150 watts | 3 cents |
| Swimming pool pumps and filters | 1kW pump & filter | 23 cents |
| If connected to Tariff 33 | | 14 cents |
| With salt chlorinator ^ | 32 cents | |
| ^ Based on 6 hours of operation a day on Tariff 11 | | |

*Source: Ergon Energy - Energy sense guide 2011 http://www.ergon.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/6523/Energy-Sense-Guide-for-Web-Jul-11.pdf