

Energy saving tips

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.

Energy saving tips

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.

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

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
	2.5kW (8500 BTUs)	11 cents
	3.8kW (13000 BTUs)	15 cents
	4.7kW (16000 BTUs)	20 cents
	5kW (17000 BTUs)	23 cents
	6.3kW (21500 BTUs)	24 cents

Energy saving tips

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 freezer use electricity 24 hours a day.

Energy saving tips

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

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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
	Tariff 33	29 cents
	Tariff 31	20 cents
For a 4 minute shower using an energy efficient showerhead	Tariff 11	22 cents
	Tariff 33	13 cents
	Tariff 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
	Tariff 33	27 cents
	Tariff 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 efficient showerhead using 9 litres per minute and 40% hot water content for both		
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