

Home Energy Improvement Handout

Benefits to saving energy and energy efficiency

1. Improving your home's energy efficiency will save you money.
2. Energy efficient homes typically last longer and are cheaper to run and maintain.
3. Improving energy efficiency will increase the indoor comfort of your home throughout the year.
4. The tenants of energy efficient homes benefit from increased control over their energy bills while living in a house that supports their lifestyle needs.

Behavioural changes

Behavioural changes can be very effective in reducing the energy usage of your house and will cost you nothing.

- ✓ Only shower if you need to. Use a shower timer to help keep showers to 4 minutes or less.
- ✗ Don't shower more often than necessary or spend more time in the shower than required.
- ✓ Ensure you turn off appliances when you are finished with them. If you can, turn them off at the power point; appliances in standby can still draw power.
- ✗ Don't leave appliances like TVs, computers or game consoles running when they aren't in use.
- ✓ Hang your washing outside where the sun and wind can dry them out, then bring them inside if necessary to allow them to finish drying.
- ✗ Don't use your clothes drier unless absolutely necessary. UV from sunshine naturally kills some bacteria.
- ✓ Make a conscious effort to remember to switch lights off when you leave a room.
- ✗ Don't leave lights on in rooms you aren't using.
- ✓ Open windows and use natural ventilation where possible instead of air-conditioners or fans to cool your house down.
- ✗ Don't set your thermostat to lower than 24 and higher than 26°C.
- ✓ Only purchase appliances with high-energy star ratings.
- ✗ Do not purchase low energy star rated appliances, which consume more energy and hence have high operational costs during their lifetime.
- ✓ Involve children in the energy saving process. Teaching kids about the importance of being energy efficient will help to promote the ideas and lessons learnt from this handout to future generations and other resource uses.
- ✗ Don't leave your children out of these conservation processes or neglect to teach them about energy usage just because they are young.

Heating and cooling

Heating and cooling are responsible for much of the energy used in houses.

\$ Prevent unwanted draughts throughout your house

Draughts through poorly sealed doors, windows, exhaust fans and skylights can increase heating and cooling costs by approximately 25% by letting air exchanges between the house and outside.

\$\$ Install ceiling fans

Ceiling fans have the lowest operating costs of the main cooling options and can help reduce the need for air conditioners.

\$\$ Plan and install energy conservation measures right from start

Plan your living areas to face north so that winter sun warms the interiors. Install outdoor blinds to prevent heating during the summer. Consider eaves in new building design, to keep summer sun off the walls and windows.

Hot water systems

Hot water is a necessity for many of the things we do daily so it is important that we maximise the efficiency of the hot water usage in our homes.

\$ Fix leaking taps

Leaking taps are a simple fix and will not only reduce the amount of water wasted but will also save on energy and water by decreasing hot water usage.

\$\$ Install low flow shower heads

By installing low flow shower heads, less water is being used therefore less water needs to be heated.

Lighting

Lighting is an aspect of your home's energy consumption, where you can make significant savings.

\$ Replace older halogen style globes with more efficient compatible globes

LED (Light Emitting Diode) or CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lamp) globes use as little as 20% of the energy of equivalent halogen globes; replacing them will generate significant savings.

Solar Energy

\$\$\$ Harness solar energy

Harnessing solar energy will enable you to heat water and run air conditioning without fear of spikes in energy bills. Household solar will also secure you from the rising cost of energy.

Additional information

If you have found this information useful, a more comprehensive document providing detailed information, recommendations, and ways to track the effectiveness of the changes you have made, will be made available on application.