



SAVING ENERGY

To help your family lower your electricity bills, and to help protect our environment from greenhouse gases, there are things you can do to save energy.

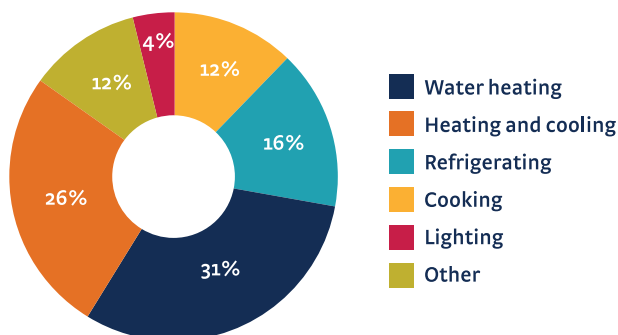
The easiest way to save energy is by making sure you turn off things that need electricity to make them work - like your games consoles, the television and the computer.

Appliances that use the most energy are those that heat or cool the house, like the air-conditioner or heater, and those that heat water, like the dishwasher or washing machine.

It's amazing how a few little changes in what we do can make a big difference.

Before we look at the ways to save energy in your home, it helps to understand where most of it is used. The amount of energy a typical home uses is shown below. Remember it will be a bit different for everyone as families have different size homes and depending where in WA you live the weather will also be different.

Typical household energy use in WA.



*Source Sustainable Energy Office

Heating & Cooling

Increasing the temperature setting on your air conditioner by only one degree in summer, or lowering your heater by only one degree in winter, can reduce your families heating costs by as much as 10 per cent. Keep your air conditioner set between 24 degrees C – 27 degrees C in summer and your heater between 18 degrees C – 20 degrees C in winter. Not only will you be helping to save energy but you can also reduce your family's electricity bills by hundreds of dollars a year.

Remember to only turn heaters and air conditioners on in rooms being used.

Curtains

Beside doors, windows are the biggest area where heat can enter the home, so make sure you close your blinds and curtains during the day to keep the heat out in summer. In winter, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight in, especially through windows facing north towards the sun. Tinted windows will also help to save energy.

Appliances

When electronic equipment like your TV, DVD, CD player or computer are left on after use, they remain in the active standby mode. You can tell if it is on standby mode because usually there will be a little red light on.

Standby power can account for up to 10 per cent of the electricity you use in your home. Remember to turn



SAVING ENERGY TOP TIPS

them off at the appliance instead of using the remote when you are finished using them, or even better switch them off at the power point.

If your family is getting a new appliance, look for the energy star label and count how many stars it has. The more stars it has, the less energy it uses. So each extra star will save your family money.

As you already know, heating water uses lots of energy so to really save money, it is better to use cold water for washing clothes. By using cold water rather than hot to wash your clothes you could save up to \$150 a year.

And if you are helping pack the dishwasher or putting washing in the washing machine remember to always make sure it's full. Half a load uses just as much electricity as a full load, so whenever possible always make sure you have a full load of washing.

Lights

The first rule is always turn the light off when you are leaving a room – especially your bedroom!

And if an old light bulb at your house needs replacing, remind your parents to buy a new energy efficient compact fluorescent globe (known as CFLs).

Over its life, a typical compact fluorescent globe saves around a third of a tonne of greenhouse gas. Also, just one CFL globe lasts as long as six of the old globes (known as incandescent globes) so you won't have to change the light bulbs so often!

You can even help save energy with your outside lights by using solar powered lights and daylight or movement security sensor lights.

The table below shows the difference between using incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs.

	POWER	PURCHASE PRICE	EXPECTED OPERATING HOURS	ELECTRICITY RUNNING COSTS PER YEAR (approx.)
 INCANDESCENT	75 WATT	\$1.00-\$1.20	1000-2000 hrs	\$29.93
 FLUORESCENT	15 WATT (75 watt equivalent) 2 or 3 lights)	\$4.00-\$10.00 (cheaper if buying a pack of	8000 hrs	\$5.99

What Else Do We Use

Heating water in your home uses lots of energy. Solar hot water systems are a great way of heating water as they use energy from the sun so they save electricity and money, as the sun is free.

Also, you don't need hot water to brush your teeth or to wash your hands so switch to just using the cold tap instead. Shortening your showers to four minutes will also be a great help.