

Saving energy in and around your home



263 High Street,
Maitland NSW 2320

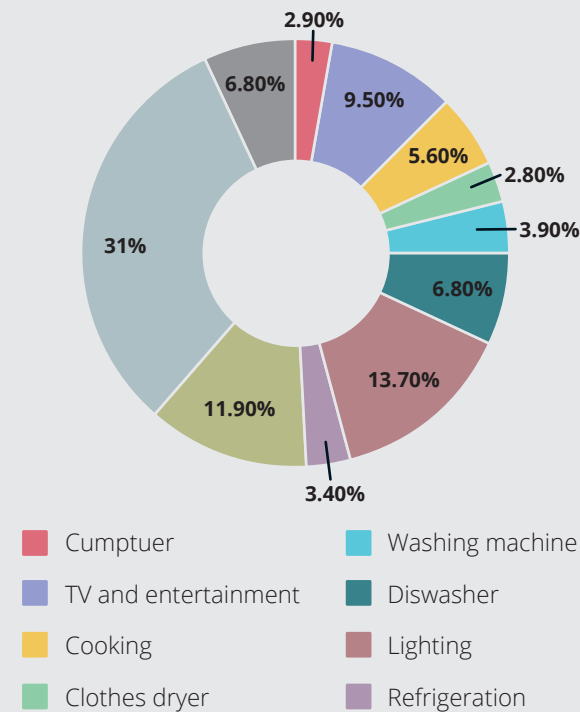
t 02 4934 9700

info@maitland.nsw.gov.au
maitland.nsw.gov.au

WHY SAVE ENERGY?

Most electricity generated for our daily use is generated by burning coal. The burning of coal emits carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, trapping heat and increasing global temperatures.

ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN A RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD



Source: Trade and Investment – Resources and Energy
(energy.nsw.gov.au)

In order to reduce your energy usage and save money on your energy bills, there are many things you can do in your daily life.

Saving energy in your home



GENERAL HINTS

- Install appliances with a high energy star rating.
- Switch off appliances at the unit or wall rather than using a remote control which will keep them in standby mode and using electricity.
- Choose a hot water system suitable for the needs of your family.
- Insulate hot water pipes and locate the hot water system as close to water using appliances as is possible.
- Repair dripping taps as they waste water and can waste energy if it is a hot water tap dripping.
- Turn the hot water system off if it is not needed for long periods (such as when you go on holidays).

HEATING AND COOLING

- Close doors to unused rooms when using heating or cooling appliances.
- Close blinds when using heating and cooling appliances.
- Choose heating and cooling appliances of a suitable size for the room they are to be used in.
- Insulate your home to reduce the loss of warmth and cool air through the roof cavity and walls.
- Eliminate draughts to reduce energy heating and cooling costs. Where necessary install draught seals.
- Ensure the temperature settings on heating and cooling appliances are appropriate. The temperature of a heated room in winter should be 18-21 degrees and in summer a cooled room should be 23-26 degrees.

IN THE KITCHEN

- Choose appliances of an appropriate size for your family size.
- Ensure the seals on refrigerators and freezers are airtight. This will reduce the cutting in and out of your appliances to keep food cold.
- Ensure the seal on your oven fits properly to reduce the loss of heat when cooking.
- Allow adequate flow around the motors of fridges and freezers.
- Ensure your dishwasher is full before you turn it on. If you only have a half load to wash adjust the load setting on the dishwasher.
- Use the microwave oven rather than the conventional oven to cook and heat food.
- Use the correct size pot or pan for the element size and amount of food you are going to cook.
- Keep the lids on pots and pans when cooking as this will speed up the cooking process as heat is trapped in the pot or pan.

IN THE BATHROOM AND LAUNDRY

- Use cold water in your washing machine and only operate it when you have a full load. Alternatively adjust the load setting to do a half load.
- Only use the clothes dryer when necessary. Hanging clothes on the clothes line or an inside clothes airer will save energy and is free.
- Install low flow shower heads and take shorter showers.
- Don't fill the bath to the top.



LIGHTING

- Open blinds and use natural light rather than turning on lights during daylight hours.
- Use compact fluorescent light globes. They last up to ten times longer than a regular globe and use a lot less energy.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Use sensor and timer lights outside rather than leaving security lights on all night.
- Use the lowest wattage globe needed to adequately light rooms.
- Clean light fittings regularly to reduce the build up of dirt and dust.

WHEN BUILDING A NEW HOME

- Orientate your house so that living areas such as the family room, kitchen and lounge room are on the northern side of the house. This will maximise warmth and light from the sun.
- Design your home to take advantage of cooling summer breezes by incorporating cross ventilation in your home.

GREEN POWER

- Choose to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases you produce through energy use by purchasing green power products.

SAVING ENERGY WHEN DRIVING THE CAR

- Walk or ride your pushbike when you only have to travel a short distance.
- Carpool to get to work or school.
- Travel at a constant speed rather than accelerating at high speed.