



## Maximising daytime power use

### Tips for households

Western Australia has some of the most abundant solar energy resources in the world. Making the most of this sunshine is good for households, directly reducing the cost of power for those with solar panels, and indirectly for those without. In fact, there is often so much solar power being produced that it can be difficult for the power system to manage. Using up the renewable solar power available to us is also great for the environment and supports the whole WA community.

So what can you do to make the most of WA's sunshine?

#### **QUICK TIPS**

#### **Schedule your washing machine and dishwasher to run between 10am and 3pm**

Use the in-built timers that come on most modern appliances to delay the start of the cycle to when the sun is shining brightly on solar panels – usually between 10am and 3pm.

Running your appliances at different times also spreads out your electricity use to make the most of the sun's energy.

#### **Set your pool pump to run during the day**

Using the in-built timer or one plugged in at the power switch, set your pool pump or cleaner – both high energy use activities – to run in the middle of the day.

#### **Cool your house down before the end of the day**

Set your air conditioner to come on before the end of the day at around 24°C to take the heat out of the house. As the evening cools down, you could switch to opening windows or using fans. If it stays hot outside, having the air conditioner run at the warmer temperature for longer can reduce your power bill at the same time as using up more renewable energy.

#### **KEEN TO DO MORE?**

#### **Review other power use**

Take the time to understand how much power you use and when you use it. There are a number of tools available to help you work this out. Local governments often loan home energy audit kits with power monitors that gauge the power use of devices. Other monitoring tools and apps are available online.

You can get a sense of how much power you are using by adding up the power use for all of your devices. Look at the label on the electrical device which indicates the number of watts the device uses. If necessary convert watts to kW (the unit of power used on your bill) by dividing by 1,000. Multiply that by the number of hours it runs in a day to get an indication of the total power used and track when you are using the devices throughout the day and night.

Once you have an understanding of when and how much power your household uses, you can consider those activities that can be shifted to the middle of the day.



## Shift your power use

Understanding when and how you use power is a great tool for reducing your bills and making the most of the sun's energy that feeds our power grid during the day. Shifting some evening tasks into the day can make a huge difference towards using as much renewable energy as possible.

What activities could you move to shift your electricity use to make the most of solar energy? Here are some suggestions:

- Unplug your laptop or device and use the battery during the evening (plug it back in to charge during the day).
- Charge your phone during the day (and charge up a back up battery during the day for when you find yourself with a drained battery or top up overnight if you need to).
- Turn off unnecessary lights, TVs and electronics in unused rooms.
- Use a slow cooker during the day.
- Shift TV or video game use to the afternoon, instead of during the evening.

## Appliance upgrades

The efficiency of each appliance in your home makes a big difference to the amount of power you use and modern appliances also make it easy to schedule energy use. Compare the power use of your devices against others available today at the [Energy Rating website](#).

Upgrading these items to more efficient appliances may have a greater up-front cost but have the potential to reduce your energy use over their lifetime.

One of the easiest options can be to check the lights in your home and change all globes to the lowest wattage globes that are suitable.

## New Technologies

Battery storage and electric vehicles, if you have them, can be very effective at maximising the use of solar power and reducing evening peak use when you:

- Charge batteries up during the day and use the stored power in the evening.
- Charge electric vehicles during the day.

Some homes and electric vehicles are set up to be able to use the charge from electric vehicles as a battery source – something that can be charged up during the day and used to power the home in the evening.

Is turning off switches not for you? There are a range of different products available that allow you turn on and off or schedule appliances remotely. Keep an eye out for products that help you make the steps that can make a difference.

## Share your experience

Let your friends know about what you've been doing and help make an even bigger difference!

For more information contact:

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