



## **Saving money on your power bills**

### **Tips for households**

Electricity bills are an ongoing cost for every Western Australian household. Taking a few easy steps to manage your power use can save you money. Some things you can even do for free, whether you rent or own your home.

#### ***QUICK TIPS – FREE TO DO!***

##### **Turn off lights in empty rooms**

Turn off the lights that you are not using. Small changes like this can add up over a billing period. External lights that are on for appearances can be turned off to reduce your bill even further.

##### **Turn off TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and computers at the switch**

Flick off the switch to reduce the stand-by power that your appliance uses around the clock. It might be a pain but it is sure to drop your bill – and every device counts.

##### **Fill up one fridge and turn the other one off**

Move all your essentials to your main fridge and turn the second one off. The old beer fridge is likely to be guzzling power and unplugging it can make a big difference to your bill. Doing that (without overloading it) has the added bonus of making your main fridge more efficient by maintaining the temperature when you are opening and closing the door.

##### **Use the kettle to boil water**

Fill your kettle with the amount of water you need to boil. Heating water uses a lot of power so only boil what you need. Small appliances often use less power than stoves and ovens, meaning the kettle is usually the best way to go. That also means that using other small appliances for cooking and heating food can save you money too.

##### **Dress for the weather**

Throw on a jumper before turning the heater on or change into shorts before starting up the air conditioning. Using a fan is cheaper than running air conditioning too.

##### **If you have solar, use it!**

Use dishwashers, washing machines and pool pumps when the sun is shining to soak up all of the solar energy you produce for free. For most households, using your solar power is of greater value than allowing the power to be fed back into the grid. For more tips on making the most of your solar energy, see the Maximising daytime power use information sheet [Maximising day time power use](#)

##### ***SEE IT ALL ADD UP!***

Your power bills only come around every two months, so it can be some time before you see the difference on your bill. Don't be disheartened if the first bill you get hasn't moved much. Also remember that our bills often fluctuate over the year as we heat and cool our homes to suit the seasons, so comparing to the same time the year before could help you see the savings you are making.



## **KEEN TO DO MORE?**

There are lots of different ways that we can reduce our power use and save money. Some take a bit longer or have up-front costs but can make a huge difference to your bill.

### **Review your 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. Convert watts to kW 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 in kWh (the unit of power used on your bill) and track when you are using the devices throughout the day and night.

This review will help you see which devices are costing you money so you can cut back your use or look at upgrading to a more efficient appliance.

### **Upgrade Appliances**

The efficiency of each appliance in your home makes a big difference to the amount of power you use and modern appliances can make it easier 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.

### **Upgrade your lights**

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

### **Check out your fridge**

Try to slip a \$5 note between the fridge and the door when its closed. If you can, you should replace your door seals. Give the back and top of the fridge a dust to help it run more efficiently. Keep the door closed as much as possible to stop the cold air from escaping.

### **Check out your oven**

Check that the seal on your oven is in good condition, and replace it if it has tears or holes. Keeping the oven door closed while you are cooking traps in the hot air, allowing it to run at a lower cost as it doesn't need to keep heating more air.

### **Clean your rangehood**

Clean the grills on your rangehood and feel it run more effectively. The kitchen fan can get covered with oils and grime, causing it to use more power as it sucks the air through a clogged up filter.

### **Clean the washers**

Clean out the filters of your dishwasher and washing machine (if they aren't self cleaning) to improve their efficiency and reduce power use. Clothes dryer lint traps and air conditioner filters can also be cleaned to help the systems run efficiently. Check that they are on a cold water connection (if possible) also.



### **Take shorter showers**

Save money on water and power by limiting your showers to 3 minutes. Heating water can be a heavy power user – both in the kitchen and the bathroom – so cutting back a few minutes or turning on a little more cold can save you big time.

### **Manage your heating or cooling**

Keeping our houses comfortable makes up a large part of our power bills. Here are a few extra tips for keeping on top of the costs:

#### ***Lock in your temperature settings***

Set your airconditioner to 24°C in summer and don't crank it up – let it gently reach the temperature. In winter, reverse cycle air conditioners are often cost effective ways of heating. Whether you have air conditioning or other space heaters, 18°C can be comfortable for most people in winter.

#### ***Use zones***

Close doors to rooms that are not in use to reduce the amount of air that is being made warmer or cooler. Close off curtains in summer to keep the sun outside and open them when warm sunshine can stream in during winter to let the sun naturally heat the room.

#### ***Draught proof doors and windows***

Cold air movement is often what makes us uncomfortable in winter, so track down any cold air streams and tightly close windows and doors, or use draught stops to block any air leaking around them. Closing curtains when it is cold outside can also help keep a room warm.

#### ***Insulate***

Get professional help in checking what parts of your home you could insulate (or upgrade the insulation). Insulation in ceilings and timber floors can often be upgraded and can have a huge impact on your power bill.

### **New Technologies**

Is turning off switches not for you? There are a range of different products available that allow you to turn off stand-by power from a remote. Some even let you do it from an app on your phone.

The range of new technologies that help to reduce your energy bills keeps growing. Keep an eye out for products that help you make the steps that have been too hard in the past.

### **Share your experience**

Let your friends know about what you've been doing and share the savings!

For more information contact:

### **Energy Policy WA**

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