



SUSTAINABLE LIVING TASMANIA

Sustainable Living Information

Energy Use in the Typical Tasmanian Family Home

Space heating:
50% of the energy used in the home

How to reduce your usage:

- Only heat living areas, not bedrooms.
- Wear warmer clothes.
- Close windows, doors and curtains at night.
- Install roof insulation. Up to 35% of heat loss is through the ceiling.
- Curtains should be close-fitting and have box pelmets.
- Use weather stripping to block draughts around windows and doors.
- On bright days let the sun shine in.

About 50% of Tasmanians heat their homes with firewood

- Maintaining room temperatures at approximately 21°C compared to 25°C will reduce firewood consumption by approximately 36%. This is roughly equivalent to 2 tonnes of firewood per winter.
- Fit a solid fire-screen or damper to unused fireplaces to stop warm air being drawn up the chimney.
- Use only dry firewood in your wood heater. Quality, dry firewood with a 15% moisture content has approximately 60% more energy content than 'green' firewood with a 40 or 50% moisture content.
- Consider a heat pump if an area is used for more than 10 hours per day.
- A thermostat set at 22°C instead of 18°C increases energy consumption by approximately 50%! Keep thermostats at a minimum.

- Keep the reflector in your radiator clean and shining.
- Clean oil, gas or kerosene heaters regularly.

Water heating:
25 % of the energy used in the home

How to reduce your usage:

- Fix dripping hot water taps. Five drips per minute wastes about 1000 litres of hot water per month. This is the equivalent of ten baths!
- Check that the thermostat on your hot water system is set between 60 and 65°C. Each degree over 65°C in the thermostat setting means a big difference in your energy bill.
- Step out of the shower earlier. If you spend more than 10 minutes in the shower it may be cheaper to have a bath.
- Use cold water to fill the jug, rinse clothes or dishes or wash your hands.
- Switch off your hot water system when you go on holiday.
- Install a solar water heater. It can supply 50-55% of hot water needs – even in Tasmania!

Cooking:
9% of the energy used in the home

How to reduce your usage:

- A gas range can be used more economically by regulating the size of the flame. Control the primeval obsession with fire and turn the flame down so that it sits under the pan.
- A microwave oven is a good idea for many of your cooking needs. Used

appropriately it can reduce cooking costs by up to 75%.

- Thaw frozen foods before cooking – this saves up to 30 minutes cooking time per kilogram
- Use saucepans with well-fitting lids and flat bases which fully cover the heating coil or plate.
- For small cooking jobs use small appliances instead of your stove.
- An electric range will maintain its heat for up to 10 minutes after switching the hotplate or oven off, so you can save energy by anticipating cooking times and switching off before the food is fully cooked

Refrigeration:
7% of the energy used in the home

How to reduce your usage:

- A refrigerator with a 5 star energy rating may have half the annual energy consumption of a 1 star unit.
- Keep your fridge at a constant 5°C and defrost regularly.
- Place your refrigerator in the coolest part of the kitchen.
- Keep the condenser unit at the back of the fridge clean and free from dust and lint.
- Always defrost your refrigerator or freezer before the ice build-up is 5 mm thick.
- Make sure refrigerator/freezer doors are well sealed. If you can easily slide a piece of paper between the cabinet and the door seal, replace the seal and check the door latches and hinges etc.

Lighting:

4% of the energy used in the home

How to reduce your usage:

- Turn lights off – if you leave them on for more than five minutes unnecessarily most of the energy consumed is given off as heat while only 10% of the energy produces light.
- Where possible, use fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescents – they require five times less energy than ordinary bulbs for the same amount of light.
- Clean lamps and diffusers regularly.

Other appliances:

5% of the energy use in the home

How to reduce your usage:

- Use your clothes line; save the clothes drier for a rainy day.
- Clothes washing: adjust the level of hot water to the size of your wash.
- If your dishwasher is fitted with only one hose inlet, attach it to the cold water tap. The dishwasher itself will heat the water for the washing cycle and will rinse with cold. Used carefully, a dishwasher can use less hot water than washing and rinsing your dishes after each meal!
- Turn off entertainment systems at their main ON/OFF switch as standby modes consume consider electricity.
- Boil the kettle with only as much water as you plan to use immediately.

For more information:

See the Aurora website for more tips, and information on how to read your bill
www.auroraenergy.com.au/residential

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