How to make your home Energy Efficient

There are many ways to make a home more energy efficient without compromising on comfort. Energy efficient homes also use less energy to achieve the same outcome.

Benefits of an energy efficient home

- Reduced energy bills
- Increased comfort all year-round
- Increased resilience to environmental and economical changes including increased average temperatures, electricity and gas price increases, heat waves and power outages
- Reduced carbon footprint supporting the Camden community working together to do our part to minimise the impacts of climate change

Check out some of the ways you can achieve more by using less energy!

1 Solar Photovoltaic (solar panels) and battery systems:

- Solar is a great way to generate your own clean electricity, become self-sufficient and cut energy bills;
- Ensure you only use a Clean Energy Council accredited supplier and ensure the size of the solar photovoltaic system meets the energy demands of your home;
- Mount the solar photovoltaic panels on a NE to NW facing roof; and
- Use microinverters if your roof is affected by shading.

Resources:

- Clean Energy Council
- NSW home and solar battery guide
- SunSpot

2 Cool roof

- A light colour roof and reflective materials will help reduce the amount of heat your home absorbs and will help improve thermal comfort within the home, saving you money on running costs.
- Cool roofs also contribute less heat to the surrounding environment, not only helping you but helping to keep your neighbourhood cooler.

Resource:

- Basix

3 Improved insulation

- A well-insulated home will help keep your home warmer in winter and cooler in summer, providing year-round comfort. It will also help reduce heating and cooling bills as well greenhouse gases.
- Install insulation in your roof and walls. If your home is raised, you can also install insulation under your floor.

Resource:

- Your Home

4 High performing windows

- Windows in the home can allow for up to 40% heat loss and up to 87% heat gain.
- There are many different types of glazing, so it is important to choose the right type to improve the comfort of your home, reduce energy consumption and lower energy bills.
- Use the Window Energy Rating Scheme (WERS) to compare the performance of windows, doors, and skylights.

Resources:

- Your Home
- Efficient Glazing
- Australian Glass and Window Association

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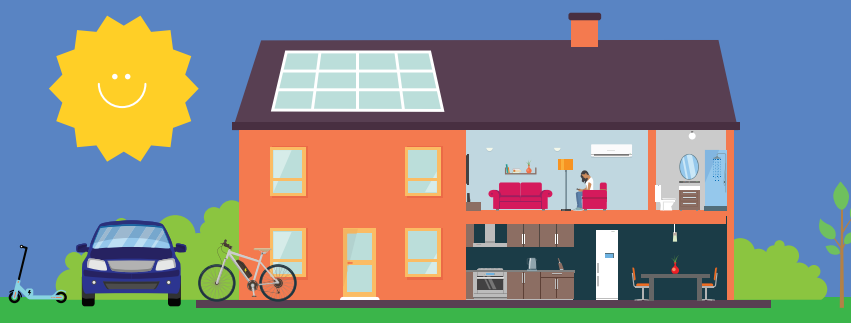

5 Air sealing

- Seal gaps around all openings such as doors, windows, electrical outlets and vents to prevent hot or cold air entering or leaving the home.
- Sealing your home helps reduce heating and cooling costs and improves the thermal comfort of your home.
- Detect air leaks in your home by engaging a thermal assessor to perform an Air Blower Door Test.

Resources:

- Your Home

6 Lighting

- Use natural light where possible and orientate windows and sky lights correctly to optimise the sun, allowing your home to be bright all year round.
- For artificial lighting, ensure you choose the right light bulb, light fitting and use the light sensibly. LED's produce the same amount of light and use up to 80% less energy and lasts ten times longer than halogen lights.
- Regardless of how efficient your lighting is it's still important to always turn off the lights when you are not using them.

Resources:

- Your Home

7 Electric appliances

- Electric appliances are a great way to use the solar electricity generated during the day, saving you money.
- Select appliances with a high energy star rating. The more stars a product has, the less it costs to run.
- Hot water uses approximately 40% of the total energy in an average NSW home. Electric heat pump or electric storage systems (with solar and timer) are energy efficient. Heat pumps are the best option and will use around 60-70% less electricity than a conventional electric hot water system.
- Induction cooktop, electric cooktop or an electric oven are better for your health and the environment and allow you to use the solar generated if you are cooking during the day.
- Set your cooling between 23°C and 25°C in summer and heating to between 18°C and 20°C in winter. Energy consumption increases by 5-10% for every degree you increase heating or cooling.

Resources:

- Energy Rating
- Your Home
- Choosing energy efficient apppliances

8 Electric vehicle

- Electric vehicles are less expensive to run and need very little maintenance.
- Charge your electric vehicle during the day using solar electricity your home is producing.

Resources:

- Transport for NSW Electric Vehicles
- Green Vehicle Guide

9 Natural shading

- Urban greenery such as trees and shrubs can provide shading and evapotranspiration benefits, helping to lower the temperature of your home.

Resources:

- Your Home
- Camden Council

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