

# REDUCE ELECTRICITY USE & COST

## What you can do:

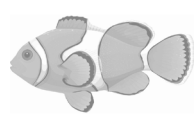
### Shop around for greener/cheaper power

1. Go to Powershop or Energy Made Easy to compare costs from different energy providers as well as carbon neutral, renewable & green power options – [www.powershop.com.au](http://www.powershop.com.au), [www.energymadeeasy.gov.au](http://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au)
2. Choose 10, 25, 50 or 100% **Green Power** from your energy provider as it comes from renewable sources such as wind, solar or hydro-electric.  
**100% Green Power = 100% guilt-free power!**

### Reduce heating & cooling energy use/cost

1. Close doors; seal gaps around doors, windows, chimneys; only heat/cool rooms in regular use; invest in double glazing for new windows; install insulation in floors/ceilings/walls/anywhere!
2. Use passive methods – let the sun in to heat spaces in winter & close curtains as soon as it passes; let natural breezes cool spaces in summer, keep windows & curtains closed against strong sun/heat in summer then open up as the day cools.
3. Look to buy the most energy efficient heater.
4. Ceiling fans use much less energy to run than air conditioning units – 95% less in fact!

July 2018 - guide created by Jacqueline Bosscher - [livedifferencenow.com](http://livedifferencenow.com)



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According to CHOICE, a typical Australian household's annual electricity use breaks down like this:

- Heating & cooling – 40%
- Water heating – 23%
- Other appliances (laundry, audio/visual, computers) – 14%
- Fridges & freezers – 8%
- Lighting – 7%
- Cooking – 5%
- Standby power – 3%

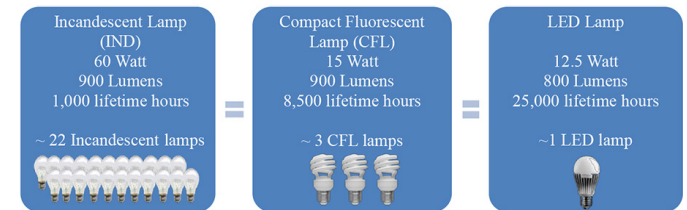
'Reduce your energy bills with smart appliance choices' [www.choice.com.au](http://www.choice.com.au)

### LED lighting

1. LED light bulbs/lamps use significantly less energy to light than other sources & last much longer – 25,000 to 50,000 hours! (see top image)
2. Wait until old bulbs run out, then replace with LED bulb that will give the equivalent light level – they can now replace all other types of bulbs (talk to your local lighting shop for more info).

### Solar water heating & appliance efficiency

1. Install solar hot water & use less hot water, eg shorter showers & cold laundry washes.
2. Dry your clothes naturally, without a clothes dryer, using indoor & outdoor clothes racks/lines.
3. Even though some energy efficient appliances cost more to buy, they will cost you less in electricity use & create fewer carbon emissions.
4. Use 'Eco' cycles or options on appliances.
5. Turn off appliances not in use (on standby) as a matter of habit, including stereos, TVs, computers, chargers, game consoles, printers, kettles, microwaves, laundry appliances, lamps etc.



LED lamps/light bulbs do not contain mercury, all other types do contain mercury (inc fluorescents).

## Scale jumping:

You could scale up this action by –

- Installing photovoltaic solar panels on your roof – you can sell excess energy you don't use back to the main grid!
- Installing a cutting edge storage battery for your solar electricity!
- Talking to others about renewable energy sources & demanding investment from governments in renewable energy!

