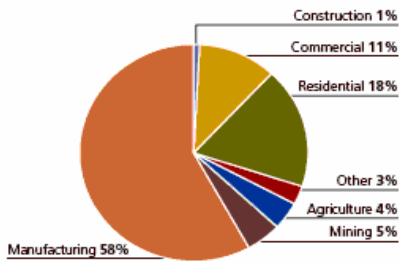


Energy Efficiency

Why is it important to conserve energy?



Australians' energy consumption per person is one of the highest in the world¹, and we have a heavy reliance on non-renewable fossil fuels for our electricity supply. In NSW, more than 90% of our electricity is generated from coal-fired power stations², which is the most greenhouse intensive form of energy production. Electricity is the greatest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in NSW - accounting for 40% of the total emissions³.

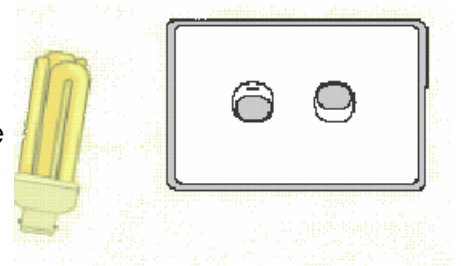
Figure 1 Final energy consumption in NSW by sector 2003-2004⁴

By reducing the amount of energy we use through simple, low-cost actions, we will reduce the amount greenhouse gas emissions generated from the production of our energy, decrease our dependence on non-renewable energies and to help ease the transition to renewable powers such as solar and wind energy. For more information on climate change and greenhouse gases please refer to the Watershed Info Sheet titled 'Climate Change'.

How can I conserve energy at home?

Through energy conservation we can contribute to the global effort to halt climate change, whilst saving money at the same time!

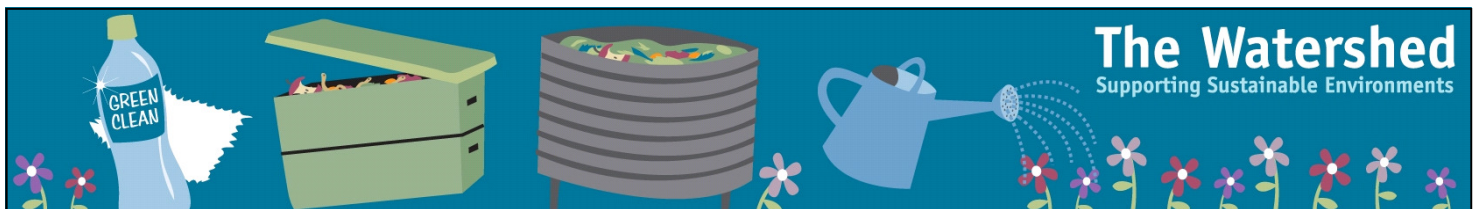
Below is a list of top tips to reduce your energy use around your home.



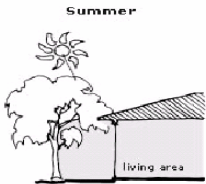
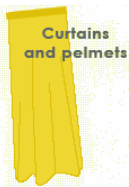
Top tips



- **Install energy efficient** fluorescent light bulbs and switch them off when you leave the room
- **Switch off** computers, televisions and other appliances at the wall, instead of leaving them in 'stand-by'
- **Energy ratings** can assist in purchasing efficient appliances such as washing machines, more stars = more efficient. The star rating provides an estimate of the annual energy consumption of the appliance.
- Keep **warm air indoors** by closing doors and windows; using door snakes, heavy drapes with pelmet boxes, and floor rugs; and by sealing windows, doors and gaps in floors.



Energy Efficiency



- Decrease room temperature by 1°C and save 10% of operating costs. Wear a jumper and good socks!
- **Keep cooler** by using shading such as curtains, eaves, awnings, shutters or deciduous trees
- Open windows in the afternoon to increase air flow
- **Hot water** can account to up to 50% of household energy use. Reduce the temperature setting by a few degrees, have shorter showers, fix dripping taps, wash your clothes in cold water, and turn off water heater when you go on holidays.
- If you are choosing a hot water system, consider such as gas or solar
- Use '**Green Power**' in the aspects of life where you can't avoid using electricity. Accredited green power energy schemes source energy from new renewable sources such as wind, solar and biomass.

For more information on Green Power, please refer to the Watershed Info sheet 'Green Power.'



Where can I find more information?

For more great energy saving tips, refer to the websites listed below or ask one of our Watershed volunteers for more information.

- **Your Home: design for lifestyle and the future:** a joint initiative of the Australian Government and the design and construction industries
<http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/yourhome/>
- **Energy ratings: Choosing an energy efficient appliance:** Australian Greenhouse Office
<http://www.energyrating.com.au>
- **Energy:** NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<http://www.deus.nsw.gov.au/energy/energy.asp>
- **Energy smart: tips on making your home energy smart:** NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability
<http://www.energysmart.com.au>
- **'Energy Efficiency' CSIRO**
<http://www.csiro.au/csiro/channel/ich27.html>

References

1. Australia Bureau of Statistics: Energy and greenhouse gas emissions accounts, latest edition
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/productsbyCatalogue/3C48092D51139CD6CA256A4E000198B7?OpenDocument>
- 2-4. See 2006 State of the Environment Report (2006 SoE Report)
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soe/soe2006/chapter2/chp_2.3.htm#2.3.19

