

10 TIPS FOR ENERGY MANAGEMENT

1 Have a professional energy audit done by a qualified assessor

They will be able to pinpoint and identify where you are using energy and make a lot of valuable suggestions on how you can reduce your energy consumption. Contact the Building Design Association of Victoria on 9416 0227 for a list of professionals in your area.

2 Draft proof your home

There is a term called 'Air changes per hour'. This is the number of times that the air inside the house changes to the outside. A well-sealed house has around 3 air changes per hour. The average Victorian house has between 12 and 20 air changes per hour. This means that you are heating the air inside your house 12 – 20 times per hour so it can go outside.

3 Turn off the beer fridge

It is the classic story – you buy a new fridge for the kitchen and you still have 'Old Faithful'. It hasn't missed a beat in 20 years and is still a good fridge. Let's put it out in the garage as a beer fridge. If you have a party every day, this can be a good thing but most people don't. They will drink a couple of cans per day which can easily be stored in the main fridge. A 25 year old beer fridge can cost over \$650 a year to run*. That equates to nearly 17 slabs per year!

4 Change Halogen downlights to LED

If you have 6 downlights on for 5 hours per day, changing to LED will save you approximately \$128 per year*.

5 Change the old plasma TV to LED or LCD

A Plasma TV is defined as a heater with a TV in front of it. They are inefficient and expensive to run. Having one on for 6 hours per day can cost nearly \$1 per day*.

6 Move the thermostat for the central heating into the main living area

Often, the thermostat is located above the air return which is in the back hallway – one of the coldest parts of the house. By moving it into the main living area you will get much better efficiency out of your central heating.

7 Check the teenager's room. Some have been known to account for 75% of a household energy bill

Teenagers are addicted to energy use! Everything from leaving their computer on 24/7 because they are 'Downloading' or falling asleep and leaving their TV on all night. A remote controlled power point usually solves the problem.

8 Install remote standby eliminators to control your standby power

These are remote controlled power points that allow you to switch off your standby power on your TV, computer etc.

9 Install an energy meter to track your energy usage

An energy meter will tell you how and when you are using your energy.

10 Learn how to read your electricity & gas bills

If you can read and understand your energy bills you are halfway there.

(*Assuming 23 cents per kWh)

