

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Helping you make your home more energy efficient July 08

We at AirCon Direct would like to use this monthly newsletter to help keep our clients up to date on all events worldwide impacting on energy and efficiency. We aim to explain events, advances and how this impacts us all in terms that everyone can understand. We would also like to help you save money and energy, and provide information on the best ways of doing so. We always welcome feedback and questions, and we hope you enjoy your reading...

WHY IS ENERGY EFFICIENCY SO IMPORTANT?

Energy is so much a part of life that we often use it without thinking, especially when it's in the form of electricity. But the fact is, most electricity in Australia comes from burning fossil fuels like coal, gas or oil (except in Tasmania). Among other things, this produces carbon dioxide - lots of it. With the build up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere comes the risk of global warming - this is known as the Greenhouse Effect.

However, burning fossil fuels for energy is not just a problem because of the Greenhouse Effect. If we use them efficiently it means we're making better use of these finite, non-renewable natural resources. So saving energy makes environmental sense - for us and for future generations.

Energy costs money too - both for individuals and for the community. Using it efficiently means you save on your energy bills, and it also means we can put off building new power stations for longer.

The good news is, it's not hard to save energy. Just look for the stars and reduce your energy bills and help us all reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

What is the greenhouse effect?

Greenhouse gases are a natural part of the atmosphere. They trap the sun's warmth, and maintain the earth's surface temperature at a level necessary to support life. The problem we now face is that human actions - particularly the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) and land clearing - are increasing the concentrations of these gases, creating the prospect of global climate change.



The effects of climate change will vary around the globe. Temperature

"Energy costs money too—both for individuals and the community"

"When I heated my home with oil, I used an average of 800 gallons a year. I have found that I can keep comfortably warm for an entire winter with slightly over half that quantity of beer." —

Dave Barry, post-petroleum guzzler

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risers are expected to be greater towards the poles than near the equator, and over land than at sea. While rainfall is expected to increase in some areas and decrease in others, likely changes in rainfall for particular regions are still highly uncertain.

Given the wide range of climates experienced across Australia and the large natural variability of Australia and its climate, it is hard to predict what the impacts of climate change will be and where they will occur. It is possible that there will be positive and negative impacts. These impacts may affect the distribution of plants and animals; the frequency of storms and floods; and the spread of weeds, pests and diseases which may influence agriculture and human health.

What does the greenhouse effect have to do

with appliances?

Burning coal to produce electricity, the most common method of electricity production in Australia, creates millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases each year. Efficient appliances reduce the demand for electricity, and so reduce the production of greenhouse gases.

Energy use is the dominant source of Australian greenhouse gas emissions, 55 per cent of total emissions are generated by the combustion of fuels to provide stationary energy such as electricity. With Australia's households accounting for almost 20 per cent of our national greenhouse gas emissions, efficient appliances can play an important role in helping Australia meet our overall greenhouse gas reduction target.

Energy Costs– the Second Price

Once you have bought an appliance, the only real ongoing costs are the energy (plus water and detergent for some appliances). Many of us tend to overlook energy costs as they are hard to determine from our normal electricity bill. However, simple calculations show that over the life of a typical appliance, these energy costs are often equal to or greater than the initial purchase cost. By looking for the most energy

efficient models in the size and type of product you are considering, you can make a large reduction in the energy costs you have to pay over the next 10 to 20 years. For some products the least efficient appliance can cost twice as much to operate as the most efficient model.

So look for the stars and save on your running costs in future years. You will also help to reduce the impact on the environment

Energy Efficiency

HOT (and cold) TIPS!

A Quick quiz to see if you can save energy...and money!

Is my home overheated – or over-cooled?

(Try setting your thermostat at the lowest possible setting and increase the temperature gradually until it's comfortable.)

Is the home kept warm (or cool) at night or when nobody is at home?

(You can fix this without sacrificing comfort– install an automatic 'setback' thermostat.)

Which rooms really need heating/cooling?

(Close off any rooms that aren't used and you will use much less energy.)

Do we switch off heaters / air conditioners when we go out?

Do I regularly clean the filter on the air conditioner?

(They need cleaning every month.)

Do we choose the most appropriate heater for the occasion?

(If you need heat for short periods, consider a split system or portable air conditioner. Air conditioning is 250% efficient, compared to radiators at only 30%.

Do we wear appropriate clothing?

(When it's not too cold, a jumper is much more sensible than turning on a heater.)

Do we purge the house at night?

(In hot weather, you can save much cooling energy by opening windows and allowing the night breeze to do the job.)

"According to a new U.N. report, the global warming outlook is much worse than originally predicted...which is pretty bad when they originally predicted it would destroy the planet." --Jay Leno

We at AirCon Direct hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter and found it useful. Please let us know if there are any topics you would like discussed, or questions answered. Please also feel free to contact us at any time regarding any questions you may have or if there is any way we can help you with your air conditioning needs.

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