

# The CSIRO Home Energy Saving Handbook

– How to save energy, save money and reduce your carbon footprint

## A summary of useful website links

### Federal Government information sites

Information on saving energy, rebates, standards and labels, and Renewable Energy Certificates:

- Living Greener [www.livinggreener.gov.au](http://www.livinggreener.gov.au)
- Your Home [www.yourhome.gov.au/index.html](http://www.yourhome.gov.au/index.html)
- Energy Rating - Choosing an energy efficient appliance  
[www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/index.html](http://www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/index.html)
- Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme.  
A WELS label shows you the water efficiency of a product.  
<http://www.waterrating.gov.au>
- 'WaterMark' labels and how they confirm that the product complies with the Plumbing Code of Australia  
[www.watermarkstandards.org.au](http://www.watermarkstandards.org.au) and [www.waterrating.gov.au/watermark.html](http://www.waterrating.gov.au/watermark.html)
- Detailed information on Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). What they are, applying for them and trading or surrendering them. [www.orer.gov.au/recs/index.html](http://www.orer.gov.au/recs/index.html)
- Energy Efficient Home Package - Covers rebates for solar hot water and insulation.  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/index.html>

### State Government information sites

Information on saving energy and rebates that may be specific to Australian states:

- ACT Government Home Energy Advice Team <http://www.heat.net.au/>
- New South Wales (NSW), DECC - Sustainable Households  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/index.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/index.htm)
- NSW Solar PV Gross Feed in Tariff  
[http://www.premier.nsw.gov.au/Newsroom/Articles/2009\\_Articles/091110\\_Premier\\_delivers\\_better\\_solar\\_tariffs\\_for\\_families.html](http://www.premier.nsw.gov.au/Newsroom/Articles/2009_Articles/091110_Premier_delivers_better_solar_tariffs_for_families.html)
- Queensland – Climate Smart [www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/](http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/)
- South Australia - Sustainable Living Choices [www.sustainableliving.sa.gov.au/index.html](http://www.sustainableliving.sa.gov.au/index.html)
- Sustainability Victoria (VIC) – Resource Smart  
[www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/1517-home-page.asp](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/1517-home-page.asp)
- Western Australia (WA), SEDO - Energy Smart Homes  
[www1.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/energy\\_smart\\_homes.asp](http://www1.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au/pages/energy_smart_homes.asp)

### Chapter 1 - Greenhouse facts and your carbon footprint

Find out more about the science behind greenhouse gas and climate change:

- [Climate questions, science facts](#)
- Climate change science - Frequently asked questions (Department of Climate Change)  
[www.climatechange.gov.au/science/fag/index.html](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/science/fag/index.html)
- How Climate Affects Us (Bureau of Meteorology) [www.bom.gov.au/climate/environ/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/environ/)

### Chapter 2 - Easy energy savings around the home

More detailed information about using fridges, selecting heaters, electronic equipment and how to dispose of compact fluorescent lights:

- Knowing your Fridge - Food Safety Information Council  
[www.foodsafety.asn.au/srcfiles/knowing%20your%20fridge\\_2b.pdf](http://www.foodsafety.asn.au/srcfiles/knowing%20your%20fridge_2b.pdf)
- Avoid the Temperature Danger Zone - Food Safety Information Council  
[www.foodsafety.asn.au/factsheets/temperaturedangerzon2248.cfm](http://www.foodsafety.asn.au/factsheets/temperaturedangerzon2248.cfm)
- Energy Rating Label - Department Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)  
Energy efficiency tables and tips, for choosing and using a dishwasher, clothes washer, clothes dryer, refrigerator and freezer.  
[www.energyrating.gov.au/productmenu.html](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/productmenu.html)

- Portable Heaters - Sustainability Victoria  
[www.energysmart.com.au/les/DisplayPage.asp?PageID=21](http://www.energysmart.com.au/les/DisplayPage.asp?PageID=21)
- Heating options for your home (including a calculator) – CHOICE  
[www.choice.com.au/viewArticle.aspx?id=100340&catId=100519&tid=100008](http://www.choice.com.au/viewArticle.aspx?id=100340&catId=100519&tid=100008)
- Energy Star  
Helps identify energy efficient electronic equipment such as televisions and computers and this site shows how to set them up for energy efficient operation.  
[www.energystar.gov.au/consumers/index.html](http://www.energystar.gov.au/consumers/index.html)
- Disposal of compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's) – General information, DEWHA  
[www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/lamp-mercury.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/lamp-mercury.html)
- Disposal of CFL's – NSW Household Chemical CleanOut, NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/cleanoutguide.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/cleanoutguide.htm)
- Disposal of CFL's – Sustainability Victoria  
ABC of household chemical disposal options.  
[www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for\\_households\\_2019.html](http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households_2019.html)
- Disposal of CFL's – WA, Synergy  
[www.synergy.net.au/Residential\\_Segment/SmartWays\\_To\\_Save/Globe\\_Recycling.html](http://www.synergy.net.au/Residential_Segment/SmartWays_To_Save/Globe_Recycling.html)
- Sustainable House Day  
Around 170 homes around the country will open their doors for Sustainable House Day on Sunday 13 September 2009. If you're thinking about improving your home's energy, water or waste management efficiency, this is your opportunity to get ideas from sustainable homeowners. Entry to the houses is free.  
[www.sustainablehouseday.com](http://www.sustainablehouseday.com)

### Chapter 3 - Shopping

Two thirds of our greenhouse gas emissions come from producing the things we buy and eat. *The CSIRO Home Energy Saving Handbook* discusses ways to reduce this and the links below are referenced in the book:

- Choice – Independent testing and review of consumer products [www.choice.com.au](http://www.choice.com.au)
- Nutrition Australia is a non-government, non-profit, community based-organisation that aims to promote the health and well-being of all Australians. [www.nutritionaustralia.org/](http://www.nutritionaustralia.org/)
- [The CSIRO Healthy Heart Program overview](#)
- Vegetarian Diets in Children [www.health.vic.gov.au/nutrition/child\\_nutrition/vegetarian.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nutrition/child_nutrition/vegetarian.htm)
- Recycling initiatives [planetark.org/campaigns/](http://planetark.org/campaigns/)
- Recycling near you (Planet Ark) - search for information about recycling and waste services available in your local area for a wide range of products [www.recyclingnearyou.com.au/](http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au/)

### Chapter 4 - Sustainable backyards

More information about growing vegetables and fruit, as well as keeping your pool and spa clean and efficient:

- Australian City Farm's and Community Gardens Network – especially useful if you don't have a garden  
[www.communitygarden.org.au/](http://www.communitygarden.org.au/)
- The National Gardening Association [assoc.garden.org/about](http://assoc.garden.org/about)
- Kids Gardening [www.kidsgardening.org/](http://www.kidsgardening.org/)
- Gardening and Health – Better Health Channel, Government of Victoria  
[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcsite.nsf/pages/gardening\\_health?open#factsheets](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcsite.nsf/pages/gardening_health?open#factsheets)
- Sustainable Gardening – NSW Government Department of Environment and Climate Change  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/gardening.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/gardening.htm)
- Guidelines for Using Manure on Vegetable Gardens, University of Maine, Cooperative extension  
[www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmpubs/2510.htm](http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmpubs/2510.htm)
- Rainwater, Grey water and using water effectively  
[www.livinggreener.gov.au/be-informed/saving-water/water-smart-gardens/](http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/be-informed/saving-water/water-smart-gardens/)
- Rainfall and other weather statistics – Bureau of Meteorology  
[www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/)
- All about composting – NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change  
[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/downtoearth/composting.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/downtoearth/composting.htm)

- Composting – US Environment Protection Agency [www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/rrr/composting](http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/rrr/composting)
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (includes information on pool chemicals) [www.apvma.gov.au/ga/poolspa\\_Q&A.shtml](http://www.apvma.gov.au/ga/poolspa_Q&A.shtml)
- Swimming pool/spa energy saving booklet and pool pump calculator – Energy Australia [www.energy.com.au/energy/ea.nsf/Content/Ways+Swimming+Pools+NEW](http://www.energy.com.au/energy/ea.nsf/Content/Ways+Swimming+Pools+NEW)
- Swimming pool heating and pump energy saving – US Department of Energy [www.energysavers.gov/your\\_home/water\\_heating/index.cfm/mytopic=13130](http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/water_heating/index.cfm/mytopic=13130)

### Chapter 5 - Major services

Find out more about heating your home and providing hot water. The below list also includes a few websites on safety:

- Operating a wood heater – Australian Home Heating Association [www.homeheat.com.au/heater\\_info\\_tips.htm](http://www.homeheat.com.au/heater_info_tips.htm)
- Wood-burning heaters and how to use them effectively. Environment Protection Authority - Government of South Australia [www.epa.sa.gov.au/pdfs/info\\_wood.pdf](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/pdfs/info_wood.pdf)
- Concrete Floor Heating. An effective non-conventional method of space heating C&CAA Sept 2002 [www.concrete.net.au/publications/pdf/briefing07.pdf](http://www.concrete.net.au/publications/pdf/briefing07.pdf)
- Gas heating - health and safety issues – Better Health Channel, Government of Victoria [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Gas\\_heating\\_health\\_and\\_safety\\_issues?open](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Gas_heating_health_and_safety_issues?open)
- Your home technical Manual – Insulation, and insulation installation [www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/fs47.html](http://www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/fs47.html)  
[www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/fs48.html](http://www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/fs48.html)
- Burns and Scalds. Health Insite, Australian Federal Government [www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Burns\\_and\\_Scalds](http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Burns_and_Scalds)
- Learn to stop burns [www.kidsafensw.org/homesafety/burns\\_scalds\\_prevention.htm](http://www.kidsafensw.org/homesafety/burns_scalds_prevention.htm)
- Tips for choosing an efficient air conditioner [www.energyrating.gov.au/acl.html](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/acl.html)
- Green Plumbers -Provides plumbers and consumers with up to date information and advice plumbing and its role in water and energy conservation. [www.greenplumbers.com.au/](http://www.greenplumbers.com.au/)

### Chapter 6 – Energy smart design for builders, renovators and renters

Some very comprehensive sites and computer models that will help you when renovating or building a home:

- Your Home - Buyers Guide [www.yourhome.gov.au/buyersguide/index.html](http://www.yourhome.gov.au/buyersguide/index.html)
- Your Home - Renovators Guide [www.yourhome.gov.au/renovatorsguide/index.html](http://www.yourhome.gov.au/renovatorsguide/index.html)
- Your Home - Technical Manual [www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/index.html](http://www.yourhome.gov.au/technical/index.html)
- Window energy rating scheme (WERS) – the WERS rating helps you compare how well a window can keep heat in your home or prevent heat from entering it. [www.wers.net/residential/wers-for-residential](http://www.wers.net/residential/wers-for-residential)
- NABERS - The National Australian Built Environment Rating System, An easy to use estimator of your house energy and water efficiency. [www.nabers.com.au](http://www.nabers.com.au)
- BASIX - the Building Sustainability Index (used in NSW). Frequently asked questions. [www.basix.nsw.gov.au/information/resources.jsp](http://www.basix.nsw.gov.au/information/resources.jsp)
- NatHERS - Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme. Frequently asked questions. [www.nathers.gov.au/eer/faqs.html](http://www.nathers.gov.au/eer/faqs.html)
- Rain statistics – Bureau of Meteorology [www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/)

### Chapter 7 – Solar, wind and hydro power

Background information on a wide variety of alternative energy sources and techniques:

- Climate zone maps - Australian Building Codes Board [www.abcb.gov.au/go/whatweredoing/workprogram/projectsae/energy/eemaps](http://www.abcb.gov.au/go/whatweredoing/workprogram/projectsae/energy/eemaps)
- Research Institute for Sustainable Energy – renewable energy resource information [www.rise.org.au/info](http://www.rise.org.au/info) and [www.rise.org.au/info/Tech/pv/index.html](http://www.rise.org.au/info/Tech/pv/index.html)
- Renewable Remote Power Generation Program  
This program is now closed to new applications except in Western Australia. [www.environment.gov.au/settlements/renewable/rrpgp/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/renewable/rrpgp/index.html)

- Wind statistics – Bureau of Meteorology [www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages)

### Chapter 8 – On the move

Information on planning your trip using public transport, buying a car with good fuel economy, suitability of ethanol for a car and calculating your air travel emissions:

- Public Transport Trip Planners  
[www.livinggreener.gov.au/take-action/travel-smarter/use-public-transport](http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/take-action/travel-smarter/use-public-transport)
- The Green Vehicle Guide – car fuel consumption, greenhouse gas and emissions  
[www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au](http://www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au)
- The fuel consumption guide for cars purchased before 2003  
[www.environment.gov.au/settlements/transport/fuelguide/](http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/transport/fuelguide/)
- BikeBus site started by Bicycle NSW – provides information on bike/bus groups.  
[www.bikebus.org.au](http://www.bikebus.org.au)
- Capability of vehicles to satisfactorily operate on Ethanol Blend petrol – Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries. [www.fc.ai.com.au/publications](http://www.fc.ai.com.au/publications)
- Biofuels Association of Australia [www.biofuelsassociation.com.au/](http://www.biofuelsassociation.com.au/)
- Travel Smart resources – a Federal and State Government resource centre providing links and references aimed at reducing our reliance on cars.  
[www.travelsmart.gov.au/resources/index.html](http://www.travelsmart.gov.au/resources/index.html)
- Air Travel emissions calculator - International Civil Aviation Organization  
[www2.icao.int/en/carbonoffset/Pages/default.aspx](http://www2.icao.int/en/carbonoffset/Pages/default.aspx)

### Chapter 9 – GreenPower, carbon credits and carbon offsets

These sites include reviews and the thinking behind carbon offsets and GreenPower:

- Carbon Offset Research & Education (CORE) is an initiative of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). SEI is an independent, international research institute bridging science and policy for sustainable development. Their site provides publications on offsets and offset standards.  
[www.co2offsetresearch.org](http://www.co2offsetresearch.org)
- GreenPower [www.greenpower.gov.au](http://www.greenpower.gov.au)
- Green Electricity Watch [www.greenelectricitywatch.org.au](http://www.greenelectricitywatch.org.au)
- RECs are described on the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator website  
[www.orer.gov.au](http://www.orer.gov.au)
- Carbon Offset Guide - Global Sustainability and EPA Victoria.  
[www.carbonoffsetguide.com.au](http://www.carbonoffsetguide.com.au)
- Carbon Offset Watch [www.carbonoffsetwatch.org.au](http://www.carbonoffsetwatch.org.au)

### Periodicals

Some of the periodicals we found useful while writing the book include:

- Earth Garden [www.earthgarden.com.au](http://www.earthgarden.com.au)
- G Magazine Australia [www.gmagazine.com.au](http://www.gmagazine.com.au)
- GreenPages (Products and services directory) [www.thegreenpages.com.au](http://www.thegreenpages.com.au)
- Renew: technology for a sustainable future magazine [www.renew.org.au](http://www.renew.org.au)
- Sanctuary: sustainable living with style magazine [www.sanctuarymagazine.org.au](http://www.sanctuarymagazine.org.au)
- The Owner Builder [www.theownerbuilder.com.au](http://www.theownerbuilder.com.au)