



HUME CITY COUNCIL ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Take Action

Save Energy, Save Money – Go 5

Are you a high, average or low energy user? Find out with the easy to use **Go 5 calculator** – all you need is your latest electricity bill. It works for homes with or without gas, and only takes a few minutes. Visit go5.org.au

Go 5 sets a target to reduce electricity use to 5 kWh of electricity per person per day - or better!
This is based on what is achievable for most Victorians.

For more information visit go5.org.au. You can compare your electricity use against others in your suburb as well as find out ways to reduce the amount of energy used in your home.

Council worked with NAGA (Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action) and six other local Councils to develop Go 5, to help households take control of home energy use and reduce energy bills.



Energy efficiency tips

To keep your energy costs low and 'Go 5', our top tips are:

1. Set your thermostat to 18-20°C in winter and 24-26°C in summer.
Every degree higher in winter or lower in summer will cost you 10% more on your bills.
2. Draught proof and seal gaps around windows and doors.
3. Install low flow showerheads to save up to \$110 a year on hot water costs.
4. Wash your clothes in cold water and dry them on a clothes line, to save up to \$150 per year on your electricity costs.
5. Switch appliances off at the switch, to save up to \$50 by cutting standby power use.

You can read our Energy Saving Fact Sheet for more tips. Visit hume.vic.gov.au/energytakeaction

Energy saving workshops

Council regularly runs free Energy Saving workshops and events as part of the *Live Green* and *Lighting the Way* programs. Visit the www.hume.vic.gov.au/livegreenworkshops page for further details and to make your booking.



Future powered families

Future Powered Families is a free program that helps new parents save energy and a whole lot of money. There are free workshops and home visits, plus training for parents in how to do sustainability assessments. The project is being run by Environment Victoria - for more information visit environmentvictoria.org.au/future-powered-families

Borrow a Power-Mate

Power-Mates are an Australian invention and are simple to use. They give you a reading of the energy, running costs and greenhouse gas emissions of individual appliances around your home and in your business – helping you to identify how you can save.

You can borrow a Power-Mate by visiting any Hume library branch or visiting www.humelibraries.vic.gov.au or call 9356 6900. Download and print Power-Mate instructions at hume.vic.gov.au/energytakeaction

Environmental Champions program

If you'd like to get involved and work on your own environmental project locally, Council runs a free leadership training program to work with the community and do something good for the environment. Full details, including application dates, are available at hume.vic.gov.au/envirochampions

Household support

Home Energy Saver Scheme (HESS) – Delivered through Kildonan Uniting Care in the Hume area, this program assists households who may be struggling with the cost of energy bills by providing:

- information about easy and affordable ways to use less energy in the home
- one-on-one budgeting assistance
- information on whether you are getting the right rebates and assistance
- help to understand your energy bills and the energy market
- advice, advocacy and support
- links to other services that may be able to assist you
- help to access no or low interest loans and the Subsidy Scheme to purchase energy efficient appliances.

To find out how HESS can assist, call the Freecall Helpline on 1800 007 001 - but get in soon as the program finishes in June 2014.

Energy Saver Incentive/Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET) – A program to support free or subsidised energy efficiency products for households and businesses, including lighting, hot water heating, insulation, heating and cooling and pool pumps. Further information, including a list of accredited installers ('participants') in your area, can be found at veet.vic.gov.au

Additional resources to self-assess your home for energy and broader sustainability improvements include:

- **Your Home** – Visit yourhome.gov.au for comprehensive guides for renovators and buyers, developed jointly by the Australian Government and the design and construction industries.
- **GreenHome** – Visit www2.acfonline.org.au for Australian Conservation Foundation's environmental education program.

Rebates

Rebates and assistance are available from the Australian Government and state and territory governments for energy efficiency upgrades such as heating, whitegoods and appliances. To find rebates that apply in your location visit livinggreener.gov.au/rebates-assistance

Household solar

With more and more Australian households 'going solar', now is a good time to consider joining them. Australia is the sunniest country on earth so it's smart to harness the sun's energy as much as possible. Read the Solar Power Fact Sheet to find out more at hume.vic.gov.au/energytakeaction



Council does not advise the removal of trees on your property for the installation of solar PV systems. This is because trees provide many environmental benefits and shade from trees to roofs and/or windows can reduce indoor temperatures by 6–12°C in summer (Landscape Design Fact Sheet, Sustainable Energy Authority Victoria). This reduces the amount of energy needed to cool your property and can save you more energy than solar panels generate!

If there is significant shading on your roof, installing a solar PV system is likely not feasible for your property. It is your responsibility to ensure that your solar PV system are placed in unshaded spots - Council will not prune or remove existing trees in public areas for the purpose of a solar PV system. Further, it is illegal to remove, prune or damage trees in public areas including nature strips, and penalties do apply.

Find an accredited solar installer near you at the Clean Energy Council's Accredited Installers Directory and download the comprehensive Clean Energy Council Solar PV Consumer Guide at hume.vic.gov.au/energytakeaction

GreenPower

GreenPower is a government accredited program to enable you to choose to purchase electricity from renewable sources. Further information is available at greenpower.gov.au

Online electricity tools

The Victorian Government's independent My Power Planner is a useful tool to help you compare your current electricity retail plan against all available retail offers – to see any cost savings from switching to a new plan, including time-of-use pricing or flexible pricing. The website will show your household's unique energy profile as well as calculate how much money you'll save if you change the time that you use appliances like washing machines, dishwashers or dryers. To sign up visit switchon.vic.gov.au

Jemena, the electricity distributor in the Hume area, provides a free online Electricity Outlook portal to allow households to track their daily electricity use and solar generation. To access the portal, visit jemena.com.au

Sustainable transport

Transport is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. You can help the environment by committing to a sustainable transport mode for one or more days per week.

Walking, cycling and public transport are the main forms of green travel, but shortening and combining car trips, regular car tuning, or driving a car that runs on cleaner fuel are also green alternatives.

For more information visit Council's Transport webpage at hume.vic.gov.au/Business_Major_Projects/Major_Projects/Roads_Transport

Your power to advocate

In addition to saving energy at home and your workplace, switching to renewable energy, and reducing your private car use, you can contribute to tackling climate change by:

- Sharing your low carbon knowledge and lifestyle with family, friends and others
- Joining a local community group or campaign. Relevant groups are listed on hume.vic.goc.au/energyresourcesandlinks
- Lobbying your elected representatives (all levels of government) for action on climate change.

For further information contact Hume's Greenhouse Officer on 9205 2200.

