



The biggest costs in using energy is heating and cooling. When you buy a heater and it has a sticker that reads 2000w that means it uses 2000 watts, or 2 kilowatts. A 2000w kettle also uses the same amount of watts but it is the time you use them that makes all the difference. A kettle only used a few minutes per day could cost around \$4.50 per month. A heater that can be used all day could cost around \$270 per month.



Every single degree counts. Adjust your clothing layers before you alter the air temperature with a heater or an air conditioner. It's much cheaper to just put a jumper and warm socks on when it's a bit chilly inside your house.

HEATING

When heating a house it's important for warm air not to escape. Close the curtains and seal up gaps under doors with a rolled up towel. Keep doors closed to rooms you are not using. Minimize your overnight heating. Leaving your heater on overnight adds another 8 hours of energy used for heating. Heated blankets and throws are a much cheaper option.

COOLING

You can run 20 portable fans for the same cost of using one air conditioner! Save your air con for the really hot days. Close doors to rooms you are not using and close curtains & blinds, just like when you use the heater.



FRIDGES

Halve the cost of your fridges by turning off a second fridge when you are not using it.

Fans, phone chargers, kettles, toasters and stand-by lights are cheap to run.



Washing clothes in cold water is ¼ of the cost of washing in warm water.

EVERY SINGLE DEGREE COUNTS

Shrink the area you are heating or cooling. Running heating or cooling overnight is expensive. **In summer use the fans first.**

ENERGY BILLS

- Are you a concession card holder? If so, check for your concession as it should be on the back of your bill – check for this every year because it can drop off your bill!
- Could you save on another plan? You can ring your energy company to see if there is something cheaper for you.
- Check your bill against you usage last year, this should be on the front of your bill.
- Check to see how much your bill is and also check to see if you owe any money from a previous bill.
- Are you paying monthly or quarterly, some people find a monthly bill easier to manage.
- All energy companies have payment plans. If you have trouble paying your bill the energy company should help you. Ring them to work out a payment plan and how much you actually use each fortnight. Under some circumstances you can also put a hold on your debt for 6 months. You have the right to work with your energy company to determine how you could reduce your energy use.

For more information on the above go to the Energy Hub at www.energyinfohub.org.au

THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT PROVIDES A “HOME ENERGY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SCHEME”

- For Queensland households experiencing problems paying their electricity or reticulated natural gas bills as a result of an unforeseen emergency or a short term financial crisis.
- A one-off emergency assistance to help with paying your home energy bills.
- Pays up to \$720 once every 2 years
- To be eligible you need to: 1) hold a current concession card, or 2) have an income equal to, or lesser than the Australian Government's maximum income rate for part-age pensioners, and 3) be part of your energy provider's hardship program or payment plan.



For more information go to www.qld.gov.au and enter “Home energy emergency assistance scheme” in the search bar. Alternatively you can contact your energy provider to make an enquiry or to apply for the grant.