

FACT SHEET SUPPORTED LIVING AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT REDUCTIONS



Many disabled, disadvantaged and older members of the community live in supported accommodation in one form or another. Whether the occupant or their not-for-profit accommodation provider pay the energy, water or waste bills it is essential to the sustainability of this arrangement that power and water bills are kept as low as possible.

WAYS TO REDUCE POWER AND WATER BILLS

- Turn things off when not in use. Make sure switches, power boards and power points are easily accessible.
- When replacing lights make sure you replace with LED lights or compact fluorescents. Non-LED down lights are very inefficient and add a lot of heat to the room that makes the air conditioners work harder.
- The use of low cost motion sensors and timers are very useful for outside security lighting. Motion sensor lights and timers are relatively cheap and quickly pay themselves off.
- Adjust washing machine settings. Only use cold water for washing especially if you have an electric hot water system.
- Understand your hot water system. With electric hot water systems keep showers to under four minutes, as this saves energy, water and money.
- Do not use heated towel rails which can cost up to \$200 a year.
- Leave mixer taps in the cold position unless you actually want hot water so hot water is not wasted cooling in the pipe when not really required.
- Fridges and freezers need annual checks to the seals. Leaking seals make your appliances work overtime to chill food, and this can often mean in a dangerous temperature range for food and at the same time very expensive to run.
- Heaters are significant energy guzzlers so only use when it's cold and not just cool.

DID YOU KNOW...

Ensuring your airconditioner is set at 24 degrees is a great way to save energy and money. Every degree to around 10% efficiency difference. Before turning on the airconditioner shut windows, curtains and doors including those to rooms that don't need to be air conditioned. It is also very important to regularly clean the filter on the air conditioner. [Read more here](#)

TIPS FROM THE ECOBIZ LEADERS

Whether you, as the tenant or the not-for-profit organisation supporting you is paying the power and water bill, it is important to keep utility bills as low as possible without reducing your comfort or safety.

- Try keeping sun off your western wall in the summer months, with a shade sail, trees or plants. Insulation stops the inside temperature becoming the same temperature as the outside and is a very effective small investment.
- When old appliances die and are going to be replaced make sure the energy or water efficiency rating (stars) system is used to select the new appliance.
- Dryers are big users of power. Only use during wet weeks if you have no easily accessible undercover clothes lines or drying racks. The filter needs to be cleaned before use.
- Monitor your water usage. Make sure you don't have water leaks including dripping taps. Ask about water-efficient shower heads and dual-flush toilets. Use a bucket in sink to water plants.

NEXT STEPS

1. Book your coaching session to talk about efficiency.
2. Monitor your waste use through the free online ecoBiz Benchmarking tool.
3. [Read the case studies on the website.](#)
4. Look for more opportunities in your business using the [ecoBiz Site Survey checklist.](#)

THE ECOBIZ TEAM IS ALWAYS
AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU.

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