



A qualified assessor will provide you with a comprehensive home sustainability report.

Get your home assessed

A home sustainability assessment can help to identify where you can make the biggest energy and water savings in your home, reduce your impact on the environment and save money.

The assessment will involve an inspection of major energy and water systems, heating and cooling, lighting, refrigeration, cooking and entertainment systems.

The assessor will also examine water efficiency (indoors and outdoors).

This information is entered into an assessment tool to calculate your environmental impact and provide suggestions for improvement.

Your assessor may look at your previous energy bills.

Home assessments usually only take an hour or two depending on how much infor-

mation you can supply, the size of your property and the number of energy and water systems you have.

The Association of Building Sustainability Assessors has a searchable database of qualified assessors.

Check your preferred assessor's qualifications and experience.

Have a look at some of their previous assessment reports and don't be afraid to ask questions.

Ask your assessor what sort of things to have ready for the assessment.

For example, you might need your energy bills and water usage for the past 12 months as well as any building reports or house plans.

After a home assessment you should receive a tailored report

advising the most effective changes for your home.

The recommendations may contain a range of practical recommendations such as:

- Things you can do without spending any money, like saving water and energy by taking shorter showers.

- Small and cheap solutions like installing water flow regulators and aerators to your taps or showerheads.

- Bigger investments like installing rainwater tanks or installing a greywater system.

When you receive your home assessment report:

- Act immediately on things you can do without spending money like taking shorter showers.

- Consider small and cheap solutions straight away.

See www.livinggreener.gov.au

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Low energy means high savings

Energy saving lightbulbs cost from around \$1 each.

If you replace a bulb that you use for around three hours a night, then you save about \$25 a year on your annual electricity bill.

Because they last much longer, according to the Energy Saving Trust, each low-energy light bulb can save you up to \$250 in electricity bills over its lifetime.

If you add up all the light bulbs and fittings in your house, this adds up a surprisingly large saving.

However, the benefits aren't only financial.

Something as simple as using low-energy bulbs can have a big impact on your personal contribution to climate change, by reducing the carbon dioxide emissions you are responsible for.

Each bulb on its own will save up to half a tonne over its lifetime.

If you replace 10 old-style bulbs in your house that you use for two hours a day with low-energy bulbs, you will save around a quarter tonne of carbon dioxide each year.



Energy efficient light bulbs in the home will help cut power bills and contribute to a cleaner environment.

So why isn't everyone making the change to low-energy bulbs?

Sadly, too many of us are creatures of habit, and just carry on buying the same bad bulbs we always have.

But now with the wide range on offer, and recent developments which have made low-energy bulbs perform just as well as old-style bulbs, it makes sense to change all your bulbs straight away.

Once you have worked out the bulbs you need to buy, you can then go shopping.

Low-energy bulbs are commonly available in supermarkets or hardware stores.

Plus you can also save a lot of money by installing more energy efficient lighting outdoors.

Just a few outdoor lights left on each night can double your household lighting bill and your greenhouse gas emissions.

The best solution is to fit daylight and movement sensors so outdoor lights switch on when they're needed, but don't waste electricity.

This also improves your home's security, as you can tell when someone is approaching the house.

For outdoor lights that must stay on for long periods, use energy efficient, compact fluorescent or LED lamps and choose the lowest wattage lamp that gives enough light.

In the garden, you can now buy solar powered garden lights that use no mains electricity and so produce no emissions when used.

Plus you don't need to wire up your garden to get lighting.

Switching to these energy efficient light bulbs will be one of the smartest moves you ever make.

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At Solahart, we want to free you from the fear of rising energy costs. So right now, when you switch to either Solahart Solar Hot Water or Solar Power (PV) we'll pay \$300 towards your last energy bill. Get both and we'll pay \$600! That's on top of existing STC government incentives of over \$900[†]. To organise a free in-home solar assessment, talk to Solahart, Australia's free energy experts.

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Top 10 power saving tips

- Buy energy star rated appliances: the more stars, the more energy efficient the appliance
- Buy appliances consistent with your actual household needs. Do you really need such a large fridge-freezer or plasma TV?
- Take shorter showers to save water and power.
- Turn off appliances at the wall plug: leaving appliances like televisions, stereos and computers on standby still uses lots of electricity and costs you money.
- Use energy efficient light bulbs wherever possible.
- Avoid installing down lights as they use a lot of electricity and break the ceiling insulation resulting in heat loss.
- Try not to use clothes washers, dishwashers, etc until they are full.
- Try to avoid using clothes driers by hanging your clothes outside or over heating vents.
- Switch to natural gas for heating and hot water – establishment costs might be higher, but the cost and environmental savings will be considerable.
- Generate your own energy by installing solar panels.