

## Information Sheet

### Suggestions to reduce energy and water usage

#### SPACE HEATING, COOLING AND COMFORT

- Ensure your home is effectively draft-sealed, especially when using heaters or air conditioners. This is the most cost effective method of reducing energy usage.
- Install bulk insulation in the ceiling cavity with a minimum R3 rating. Ensure installed insulation is in good condition and effectively installed.
- Install insulation with a minimum R2 in external walls if you have, or expect to have, access to the wall cavity.
- Install under-floor insulation.
- Replace LPG or electric heaters with a more efficient technology, such as a gas, solar, hydronic or a reverse cycle air conditioner with a high star rating (min 4 stars).
- Modify your heating system (or partition your home) to be zonable, or install an efficient gas space heater or reverse cycle air conditioner to use instead of central heating when only a small area is occupied.
- Inspect, insulate and if necessary replace faulty heating or cooling ducts.
- Low cost ways to reduce heating bills include keeping your home well sealed, maximising access to winter sun, and using alternatives to electric heaters.
- Install close-fitting blinds or curtains, or install high performance window treatments to your windows to better regulate the temperature in your home.
- Install external shading for north, east and west facing windows to reduce summer heat buildup.

#### HOT WATER SYSTEM

- Replace your hot water system with a gas-boosted solar model if street gas is available.
- Replace your hot water system with an electric boosted solar or heat pump model.
- Replace your hot water system with an instantaneous gas model.
- Relocate your hot water system as close as possible to where hot water is most frequently used (i.e. bathroom or kitchen) to prevent hot water going cold as it sits in the pipes.
- Low cost ways to reduce the energy use of your gas hot water system include reducing usage, lowering the thermostat setting and insulating hot water pipes.
- Consider installing an on-demand hot water recirculation system to prevent hot water going cold as it sits in the pipes.

#### LIGHTING

- Replace halogen downlights with IRC, CFL or LED downlights (or other efficient lighting system).
- Reduce the number of lights per switch, or install sensors, timers, or dimmer controls to reduce your light use.
- Low cost ways to reduce lighting bills include installing low-energy light globes, reducing the number of lights on each switch, and switching lights off when they are not needed.

#### SHOWER, BATH AND TOILET

- Replace your toilet with a water efficient model (min 4 star) or a composting toilet.
- Maximise water and energy savings by replacing inefficient showerheads with 3 star models and taking shorter showers.

### COOKING AND DISHWASHING

- Replace your oven with a fan-forced, well insulated, double or triple glazed oven.
- Replace your electric cooktop with a gas or electric induction cooker, or other energy efficient cooker.
- Low cost ways to reduce cooking bills include using the microwave instead of the oven or cooktop, and only boiling as much water as needed.
- Replace your dishwasher with a model that has a high star rating for energy and water.
- Low cost ways to reduce dishwashing bills include not rinsing your dishes under hot water before loading the dishwasher and only washing with a full load.

### REFRIGERATION

- Dispose of your inefficient fridge or freezer and replace it with a model of at least 4 stars (ensure it is no bigger than needed).
- Turn off secondary fridges or freezers when they are not needed.
- Have your fridge or freezer inspected if the motor runs continuously.
- Low cost ways to reduce refrigeration bills include checking fridge seals are intact and clean, and that the fridge is positioned in a cool, well-ventilated place.

### CLOTHES WASHING & DRYING

- Replace your washing machine with a front loader with high star ratings for energy and water star rating and heats its own water.
- Low cost ways to reduce clothes washing bills include washing full loads only, in cold water.
- Replace your clothes dryer with a higher star-rated model.
- Low cost ways to reduce clothes drying bills including using a clothes line or drying rack whenever possible, and partially air-drying clothes or spin drying before putting in a clothes dryer.

### ENTERTAINMENT & HOME OFFICE EQUIPMENT

- Replace old desktop computers and laptops with energy efficient models.
- Low cost ways to reduce bills include switching appliances off at the wall, using timers, and selecting home office appliances with an Energy Star label.
- Replace cathode ray tube computer monitors with LCD monitors.
- When upgrading televisions, consider low energy systems such as LED units.

### POWERING YOUR HOME

- Install photovoltaic panels to generate electricity (min 1.5 KW system capacity).
- Connect to natural gas for cooking, hot water heating and space heating (if available).
- The simplest way to reduce your household's greenhouse gas emissions is to purchase 100% Green Power from your retailer.

### OUTDOOR AND GARDEN

- Replace your pool/outdoor spa heater with a solar pool heater.
- Install a rainwater tank or greywater treatment system and connect to as many usage points as possible.
- Low cost ways to reduce your impact in the way you maintain your pool or spa include using a pool blanket and reducing the operating hours of your filter pump (discuss with pool specialist).
- Minimise use of salt chlorinator, which uses energy to run (discuss options with a pool specialist).

Please contact Paul Kleywegt at Building eValue for a full assessment of your home.