

Energy Information Sheet

Every year Australia's 7 million homes contribute over 20 percent of Australia's climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions. That's over 15 tonnes of greenhouse gas per home per year. Greenhouse gases are produced from activities such as heating, cooling, cooking, lighting, driving a car, running appliances and rubbish disposal. Further emissions are created in the building and furnishing of our homes.

Our household emissions are contributing towards global climate change which has the potential to dramatically change local and global weather patterns, creating widespread social, economic and environmental impacts. In the south west of WA for example, rainfall has been below average for the last 28 years.

What climate change means for WA:

- Average temperature to increase by 1.3°C by 2030 and 2 to 4.5°C by 2100
- Winter rainfall to reduce by 4-8% by 2030 and 10-30% by 2100
- Increased bushfire risk
- Cyclones travel and/or form further south and are up to 20% more intense
- Increased evaporation rates
- Increased heat stress on cattle and reduced milk production from dairy cattle
- Extinction of 3 frog and 15 mammal species with just a 0.5°C temperature rise
- Extinction of 119 Dryandra and Acacia species with a 2°C rise



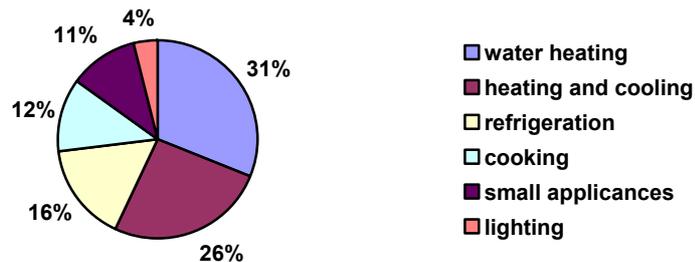
With over 18,000 occupied homes in Mandurah our residential community is producing more than 270,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases every year. Each unit of electricity you use produces 1.053 kg of greenhouse gases. Each unit of natural gas you use produces 0.2kg of greenhouse gases. This means that:

- A medium-sized 3 star fridge will produce 624kg of greenhouse gases a year
- A top-loading washing machine will produce over 648kg of greenhouse gases a year, and
- A large electric bar heater will produce 1kg of greenhouse gases every hour it is used

Energy consumption in the home

Unless we find ways to be more careful and efficient with our energy use the emissions from Mandurah residents are likely to more than double in the next 10 years. So the choices you make about using energy in your home will make a difference. To make the most impact on your household emissions and energy bills you need to target water heating and house heating and cooling as these are the big energy guzzlers:

Energy consumption in the home



Source: SEDO, 2001

The amount of energy your house uses does depend on how many people you have in your home and its structural characteristics e.g. insulation and orientation. A significant amount also depends on the behavioural choices you make in your home. Simple behavioural changes will make a difference to your energy consumption, the amount of greenhouse gases you produce and your energy bills.

You can save energy and money:

- Minimise the amount you heat and cool your home by designing it to work with rather than against the climate.
- Adapt your habits and behaviours to save unnecessary energy expenditure in the home.
- Buy energy-efficient appliances with maximum star ratings.
- Turn down the thermostat setting, insulate the pipes on your hot water system and wash your clothes in cold water whenever possible.
- Switch to greenhouse-neutral renewable (from solar, wind) energy sources either through home power generation e.g. solar hot water systems or through Western Power's Green Power scheme called Natural Power.

For further information on what you can do, visit www.sedo.energy.wa.gov.au

Source: Living Smart, Action Guide for a Sustainable Community www.livingsmart.org.au. Your Home - Design for Lifestyle and the Future, technical manual, (a joint initiative of the Australian Government and the building and design industries)