



How to use less energy and save money

AGL



Easy English





Blue words

Some words in this book are **blue**.

We write what the blue words mean.

Help with this book



You can get someone to help you

- understand this book

- find more information.



Contact information is at the end of this book.

About this book

This book is from AGL.

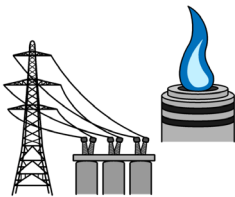


This book is about easy ways to

- save money



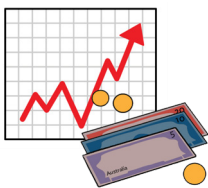
- use less **energy** in your home.



Energy means things like

- electricity

- gas.



The cost of energy can

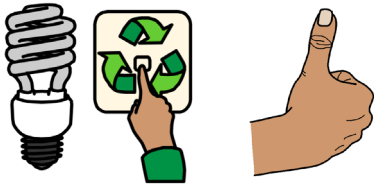
- change



- be different in different parts of Australia.

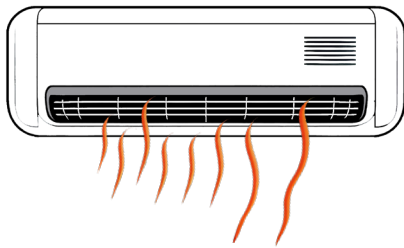
You can

- find out what uses the most energy in your home

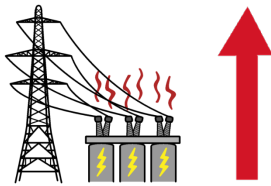


- find better ways to use energy.

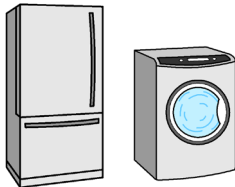
How we use energy



Our homes use a lot of energy on heaters and coolers.



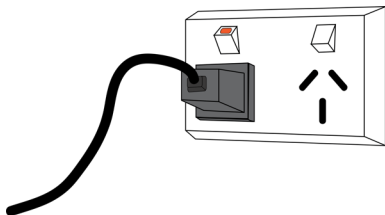
Appliances use a lot of energy.



Appliances are kinds of equipment that use energy, like fridges and washing machines.

Appliances use energy when

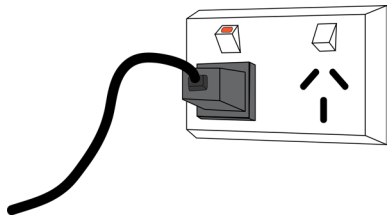
- they are plugged into the wall



- the wall switch is on.

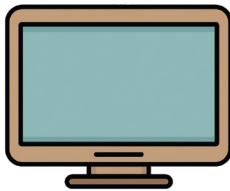
Appliances can use energy when they are in **standby mode**.

Standby mode means



- the appliance is plugged into the wall

- the wall switch is on



- you are **not** using the appliance.

Some appliances that use energy when they are in standby mode are



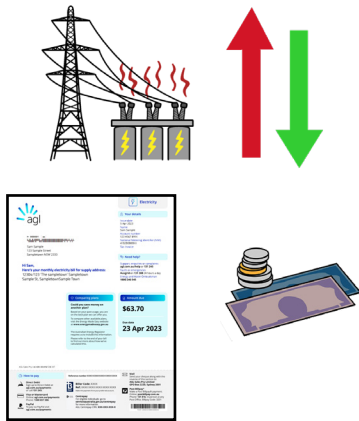
- televisions

- video game consoles



- computers.

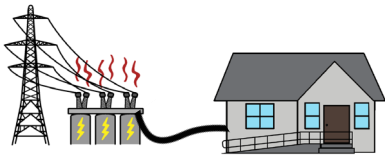
Your energy bills



Your energy bills tell you

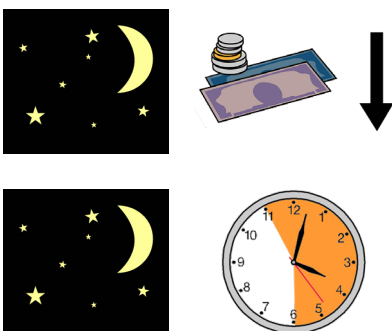
- how much energy you use
- how much you need to pay for energy.

You also pay a **supply charge** to your energy company.



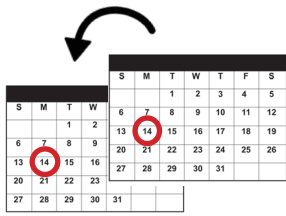
A supply charge is how much you pay the energy company to put energy into your home.

You might have an **off peak tariff** on your energy bill.



This means you pay less for energy at night.

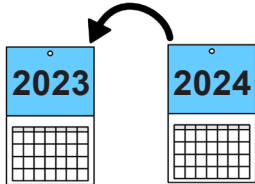
For example, the off peak tariff is for energy used between 11 pm and 6 am.



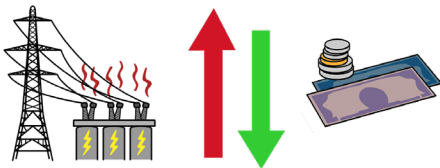
Your energy bill will show how much energy you used

- at the same time last month

or

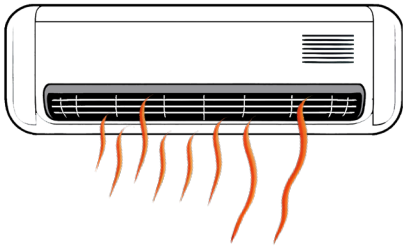


- at the same time last year.



If you look at your energy bill you can see if your energy costs more or less.

You can use this to work out if something is making your energy bill cost more.



For example, a new heater.



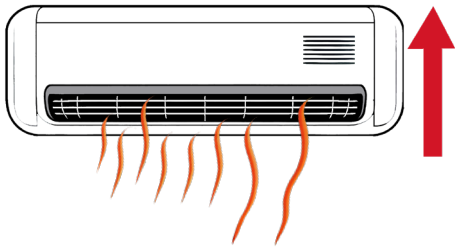
Then you can find ways to

- use less energy

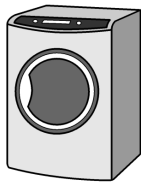


- save money.

What uses the most energy

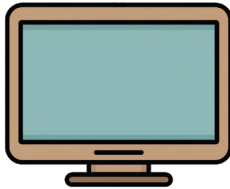


Most homes use almost half of their energy on heaters and coolers.

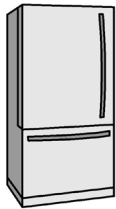


Other things that use a lot of energy are

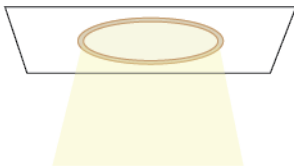
- tumble dryers



- televisions



- extra fridges or freezers.

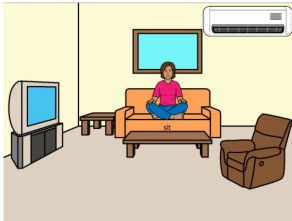


- **halogen downlights.**

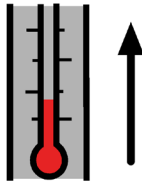
Halogen downlights are a type of light bulb.

Ways to save money and use less energy in your home

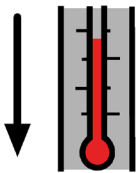
Save money and use less energy to heat and cool your home



Only heat or cool the room you are in instead of the whole house.

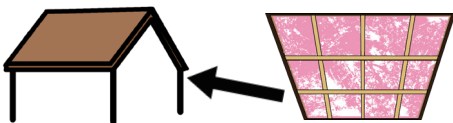


Do **not** heat a room to more than 20 degrees in winter.

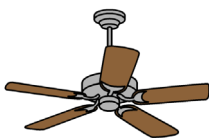


Do **not** cool a room to less than 24 degrees in summer.

Insulate your home.

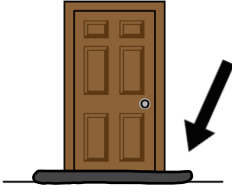


This means use material in your roof and walls to stop heat or cold being lost from you home.



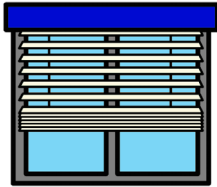
Use a fan because fans use less energy.

Use a **door snake**.



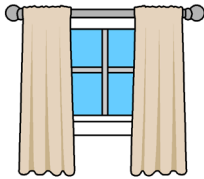
A door snake stops air coming in the house from windows and doors.

Make sure windows work well in different weather.



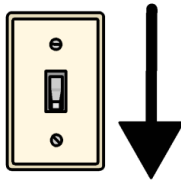
For example

- in summer use an outside blind to keep heat out

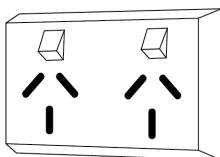


- in winter use heavy curtains to keep heat in.

Save money and use less energy for appliances in standby mode

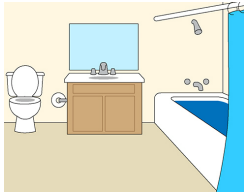


Turn off your appliance when you are **not** using it.



Turn the switch off at the wall.

Save money and use less energy for hot water in your home



You use hot water in your

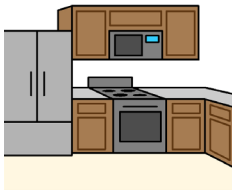
- bathroom



- shower

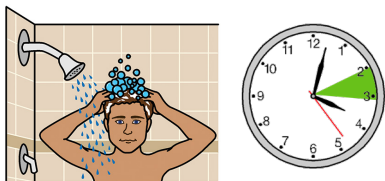


- laundry

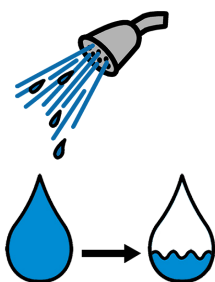


- kitchen.

You can change the way you use hot water.



You can have a shorter shower.



You can get a **low flow shower head**.

This means the shower head uses less water.

Save money and use less energy for your appliances

You can choose **energy efficient** appliances.

Energy efficient means the appliance uses less energy than other types of the same appliance.



Appliances have an **energy star rating** label.

The energy star rating means you can check if the appliance you want to buy uses less energy than the other types of the same appliance.



Choose an appliance that has more stars filled in.

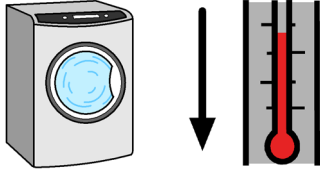
You can go online to

- find out more about energy star ratings
- see how much energy your appliances use.



Website energyrating.gov.au/calculator

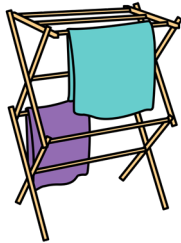
Other ways to save money and use less energy



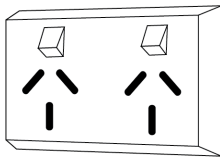
You can wash clothes in cold water.



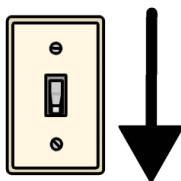
You can make sure your dishwasher is full when you use it.



You can hang your clothes on a line instead of using a tumble dryer.



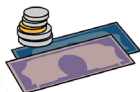
You can turn off power points after you have charged your phone or laptop.



You can turn off lights when you leave a room.

Tips about energy and concessions

Check your energy bill for more information about concessions.



You can check your energy bill to see if you could be on a cheaper energy offer.



You can learn how to use less energy.

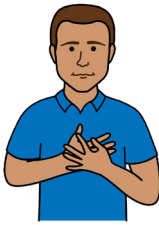


You can read our other Easy English book called **Energy and concessions**.

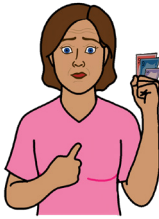


We tell you how to find the book at the end of this book.

You can get more help to pay your bills.



We care about helping customers when they have **financial hardship**.



Financial hardship means you might find it hard to pay for things like bills.

You can read our other Easy English books about our financial hardship programs.

Our other books are called

- **Staying Connected when you have money problems if you live in NSW, QLD, SA or WA**
- **Support to pay your bills if you live in Victoria.**



We tell you how to find the book at the end of this book.



More information

For more information about our energy plans contact AGL.



Call 131 245



Website agl.com.au/help

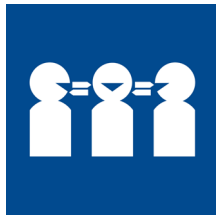
You can find more helpful tips on our **Saver Centre**.



Website agl.com.au/discover/saver-centre

You can read our other **Easy English** books on our website.

Type **Easy English** into the search bar.



If you need an interpreter

An **interpreter** is a worker who

- understands and speaks your language
- can help you communicate what you need.



Call 1300 307 245

If you need help to speak or listen



Use the National Relay Service to make a phone call.

You must sign up to the service first.



Website accesshub.gov.au/nrs-helpdesk



Call 1800 555 660



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