IMPACT a changing land

A free exhibition until 24 Feb 08

State Library of New South Wales

Supported by the Nelson Meers Foundation

GREEN LIVING FACT SHEET

PRACTICAL TIPS ON HOW YOU CAN PROTECT THE PLANET

- Recycle household bottles, cans and papers.
- Compost your garbage instead of throwing it away - over 60% of solid house waste is fit for the compost pile, heap or bin.
- Look for household appliances with energy and water-efficient models at www.energyrating.gov.au and www.waterrating.gov.au
- A typical new family fridge uses two-thirds less energy and generates two-thirds less greenhouse gas than a twenty year old one. An old fridge could be costing $130 more and generating an extra tonne of greenhouse gas each year.
- Air-conditioning is very energy-intensive for cooling, so buy an efficient model and limit its use. Turning up the thermostat by 1 degree in summer and down by the same amount in winter can reduce heating and cooling costs by around 10%.
- A vacuum cleaner generates 1 to 2 kilograms of greenhouse gas each hour it's used.
- Only use the washing machine when it's full; choose one that uses the least energy and water (check its star ratings) and wash in cold water.
  Each year, the energy used to run an average clothes washer produces about 90 kilograms of greenhouse gas, and supplying warm water for washing adds another 475 kilograms and costs around $30.
- Dry clothes on a clothes line. Typical use of a dryer (once a week) adds 150 kilograms of greenhouse gas and costs an additional $20.

- High-efficiency gas water heaters and electric or gas solar systems are better for the environment.

- Replace incandescent bulbs, which will be phased out by 2010, with compact fluorescent light bulbs and LED lights. They're more energy efficient.
  Each year, electricity used for lighting an average Australian home generates around three-quarters of a tonne of greenhouse gas and costs around $100.

- Get an efficient space heater to cut down on the cubic area you need to heat, reducing energy consumption and energy bills.

- When heating or cooling, close windows and external doors, as well as doors to unheated areas such as laundries and bathrooms, so you're not heating the great outdoors: save up to 3 kilograms of greenhouse gas per hour. The energy used for heating and cooling a typical home generates more than one and a half tonnes of greenhouse gas and costs more than $200 each year.

- Fan-forced ovens generate up to 35% less greenhouse gas than conventional ovens and more items can be cooked at the same time, as heat is more evenly distributed around the oven.

- Buying a car that uses 2 litres per hundred kilometres less fuel will save around 14 tonnes of greenhouse gas over its life. Every litre of petrol saved cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 2.8 kilograms and saves you at least $1 plus vehicle wear-and-tear.

- Typical home sound systems, used 6 hours a day, can generate more than a 100 kilograms of greenhouse gases each year.

- Use eco-friendly household cleaners.

- Ride a bicycle.

- Use rechargeable batteries instead of single-use batteries.

- Choose organic fruits, veggies, meat and dairy over conventional food.

- Only use a dishwasher when it is fully loaded, try a shorter wash cycle if dishes aren't very dirty, and clean the filter to maintain performance.

- A large-screen TV, used for six hours a day, can generate more greenhouse gases per year than a fridge. So don't leave the TV on when you're not watching it.

- Buy GreenPower electricity – if you can't generate your own clean electricity (by installing solar panels, for example), you can reduce the emissions from your household's electricity use with accredited Green Power (energy from new renewable resources), available from electricity retailers and offset companies.

- Use recycled paper.

- Installing a low-flow (three-star) showerhead and taking shorter showers can save litres of water.

- Measure your carbon footprint – www.acfonline.org.au/custom_greenhome/calculator - calculate your household's greenhouse pollution from energy and transport.

Sources:
* Australian Conservation Foundation – www.acfonline.org.au
* Australian Government - Department of the Environment and Water Resources - Australian Greenhouse Office – www.greenhouse.gov.au.
* Choice: Journal of the Australian Consumers' Association
* Treehugger - www.treehuggers.com.au.

Compiled by the Leisure and Tourists Team, State Library of NSW