

Ways you can control your energy use

You may not need a battery to save money on electricity bills. There are other simple and cheap ways you can achieve this.

1 Look at your energy use

It's important to get the facts. Know how much energy you use and when, and which appliances use the most.

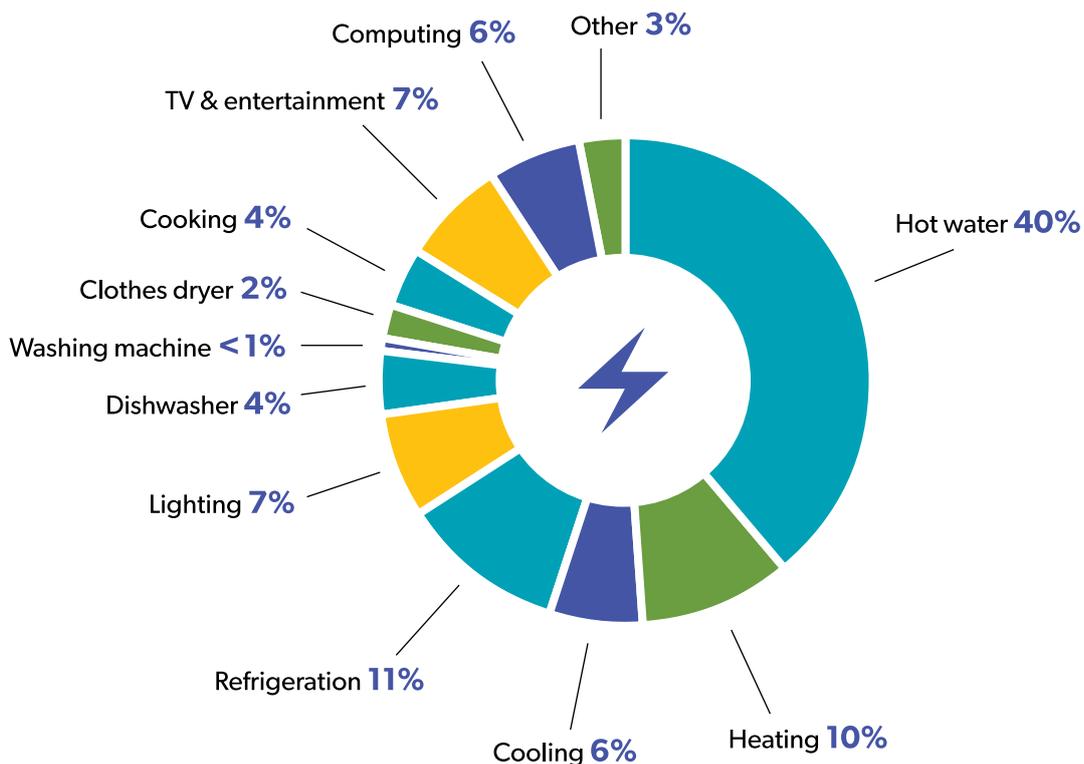
You can get your own personal energy data from:

- **Electricity and gas bills.**

- **Meter data and solar inverters**—some retailers have web portals or apps which show your daily energy usage and many solar inverters have a display that shows the solar power generated.

- **In-home displays** that measure consumption by single appliances or the whole home. You can often borrow them from local libraries.

Typical energy consumption for a suburban household in NSW*



* Energy consumption breakdown based on June 2017 analysis by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage for a Western Sydney household using electricity for hot water heating and space heating

2 Shop Around

Energy retailers want your business and they are willing to compete to get it.

Finding the best price plan for your grid electricity can save you a few hundred dollars every year. You should also ask for a discount for direct debit or on-time payments.



3 Reduce your household consumption

The biggest energy users in NSW homes are hot water systems, space heating or cooling systems and fridges. Most homes have their highest energy use in the early morning, late afternoon and evening.

You can use less energy by replacing old light bulbs with LEDs, by not keeping appliances on stand-by, and by reducing the amount of time your pool filter runs in winter.

Good building insulation, like ceiling batts, will most likely pay for itself sooner in savings than either rooftop solar systems or batteries.

Energy efficient appliances, with at least four stars on their Energy Rating label, are a simple way to make one change and get ongoing benefits.

4 Make the most use of your existing solar

Run appliances such as dishwashers when the sun is shining.

If your house is well insulated, pre-heat (in winter) or pre-cool (in summer) your house while your solar system is producing energy.

Get an electrician to rewire your electric hot water tank so it uses your own solar power. When replacing your existing one, consider buying a highly efficient heat pump hot water system.

5 Add more solar

Adding more solar panels or installing a larger new solar system means you can cover more of your consumption later in the evening and earlier in the morning. You should also receive a feed-in tariff payment for solar power exported to the grid.

Get professional advice about whether you can add more panels to your existing solar system or if you will need to install a whole new solar system.

6 Then look at battery storage

Batteries allow you to store your excess solar energy and use it later, and they are becoming more affordable. You just need to decide if it is the right option for you by asking yourself:

- Would battery storage save me money? (see the **NSW Home Solar Battery Guide**)
- How do I choose the right battery system? (see the 'Choosing a home solar battery' fact sheet)
- What could a battery system look like? (see practical examples on the **NSW Home Solar Battery Guide** website)

For more energy saving tips

Visit the 'cut your power bills' page on <http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/cut-your-power-bills>.



Planning & Environment

For more information download the NSW Home Solar Battery Guide from resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/battery-guide.

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