

FACTSHEET 4:

Being energy smart at Aura

Aura has been purposefully designed with respect to its unique natural setting – the glimpses of the picturesque Glasshouse Mountains, the nearby bustling beaches of Caloundra and the beautiful Pumicestone Passage. Awareness of energy-saving initiatives will not only make Aura a leader in the delivery of environmental sustainability, but importantly help save you on money in the long term.

Throughout Aura, we intend to minimise energy demand through the design and development of energy-efficient buildings – these will both reduce energy use and encourage renewable energy technology. With electricity charges on the rise, it makes sense to minimise your energy consumption.

There are a number of energy-saving initiatives already built into the *Aura Building Design Essentials* booklet for residents, including:

- light-coloured roofing to reduce heat absorption;
- installation of peak smart-enabled air conditioners;
- wiring in an off-peak energy circuit to take advantage of off-peak electricity;
- connecting hot water systems and pool pumps to off-peak energy circuits, unless solar hot water is installed; and
- detached dwellings will feature an external clothesline.

Every home in our first display village at Baringa will achieve a minimum 7-stars NatHERS energy-efficiency standard. These homes will inspire more efficient homes to be built at Aura, lowering household energy bills.



FACTSHEET 4:

Being energy smart at Aura - continued

Tips for being energy smart at Aura

A well-designed sustainable home can save you money on bills as well as reduce your impact on the environment. Your energy-smart home will make a significant contribution to Aura being a world-leading sustainable community, with lower carbon emissions than comparable developments.

Carefully planning the size and design of your home, including the location of rooms and windows, and choice of building materials, can significantly reduce the need for heating and cooling.

Below are some useful tips and suggestions to consider with your builder to help with your energy consumption and power bills:



- The position and layout of your home determines which rooms receive direct sunshine at different times of the day – affecting the temperature of each room. For example, north-facing rooms, which receive the most daytime sun, are ideal for family rooms; while west-facing rooms, which receive the hot afternoon sun, are particularly suited for bathrooms, laundries and garages.



- Using the right building materials will keep your home at an even temperature all year round, reducing the need for heating and cooling. For example, concrete slab floors, double-glazed or tinted windows and well-insulated ceilings, walls and floors can help moderate temperatures.



- The position of windows contributes to the amount of light your home receives, as well as heat and breeze. Large windows for north- and east-facing rooms can be easily shaded in summer and let in warmth in winter, and it is best to avoid big windows in south- and west-facing rooms to reduce heat escaping in winter and minimise the impact of the hot afternoon sun in summer.



- Heating water is responsible for up to 25% of the average home's energy bills. Although initially costly, solar power uses 50–80% less energy than conventional electric heaters and can be boosted by gas or electricity.



- Consider the purchase of energy-efficient appliances. New appliances come with star ratings – the higher the star rating, the more energy efficient the appliance will be, saving you money on bills.

For example: a medium-sized 5-star fridge can save you about \$650 over its lifetime compared with a 2.5-star fridge of the same size.

Running your home

Once you've considered the sustainability of your home – in terms of good design, efficient appliances and low greenhouse energy – you can reduce your bills even further simply by the way you behave at home. Ask your builder about installing a smart-meter to track how much electricity and water you use each day.

Below are Energex's Top 20 Tips to help you save money and reduce your energy usage at home:

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| 1 Set your air-con to a cool 24 degrees | 2 Keep doors, windows, curtains and blinds closed to keep the heat out | 3 Switch hot water to off-peak and save | 4 Set your air-con to a cool 24 degrees | 5 It only takes a second to switch off your second fridge |
| 6 Dishwashers reduce the peak outside of 4 - 8pm | 7 Freezers work better when they're defrosted more often | 8 Ceilings, walls and floors save you more when they're insulated | 9 Turn things off, don't leave them on standby | 10 Use an energy-saving power board |
| 11 Use the washing machine outside of 4 - 8pm and wash clothes in cold water | 12 Be a fan of fans. They're easier on peak demand and on your pocket | 13 Switch your pool pump to off-peak or install an energy-efficient one | 14 If they're not being watched, worked on or played, turn off TVs, computers and games | 15 A BBQ or microwave is a recipe for success on hot summer days |
| 16 Switch to off-peak when building or renovating | 17 Changing light bulbs to energy-efficient ones is a bright idea | 18 Going on holiday? Unplug before you unwind | 19 Check your fridge seals and stop cold air escaping | 20 If it heats or cools, it's energy-hungry |

Source: Energex Positive Energy Guide to Energy Savings Factsheet

For more energy smart tips visit the following websites.

www.energyaustralia.com.au/residential/energy-efficiency-safety/energy-saving-big-ideas

www.yourhome.gov.au