

# Where to start?

COMMUNITY SMART ENERGY



BE ENERGY EFFICIENT  
SAVE MONEY  
REDUCE EMISSIONS

There are many ways that we, as energy customers, can save dollars, reduce our energy usage and contribute to a healthier and more sustainable local community.

Improving daily energy efficiency is the first step in electrifying our everyday living, to save money and take advantage of the expanding sources of renewable electricity.

With more and more renewable energy reaching our homes each year, it helps to have a plan to make the energy transition in a way that suits individual circumstances.

Where to start can be daunting, but having a plan can help make the change, when you have the choice. Whether you take 6 months or need 6 years, this guide can assist in developing that plan.



Replace old appliances



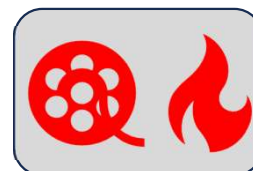
Use the increasing amount of renewable electricity from the grid



Install solar or access community energy



Gas to reverse cycle AC



Gas to electric cooking



Electric vehicles



Gas hot water to Electric Heat pump



Improve insulation & window coverings

# Start a plan

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Upfront costs to switching can be a barrier for many people before long term savings can be achieved. For each of these steps there is advice and rebates are available to us to help the transition.

## ACTION 1



### ASSESS ENERGY USAGE

- There are many cost-effective things we can do around our home to help reduce our energy use.
- Assessing where and when the electricity is used around the home and taking steps to maximise the reduction in use is a great first step.
- Some households are able to reduce their energy use by around 10-30% through this important first step. Grants and rebates may be available to help replace or upgrade appliances.
- This can also help understand the required size of a solar system for your home.
- Check your electricity bill. Are you getting the best deal. See website: Energy Made Easy
- Install a power meter & app eg Powerpal to track energy usage.

## ACTION 2



### CHANGE HABITS

- Assess when appliances are used to avoid peak charge times eg afternoon/evening.
- Set appliance timers eg washing machines and dishwashers. Set pool and spa filters and heaters for off peak usage.
- If using rooftop solar, use appliances including air conditioning to take advantage of your own energy.

Acknowledgement to Zero Emissions Sydney North, Climate Future Central Coast, Zero Emissions Noosa,, Inner West Council.

Disclaimer. The information is general in nature, is not professional advice and should not be relied upon when making decisions. Individuals need to conduct their own assessment and gain individual advice to suit their own circumstances.

## ACTION 3



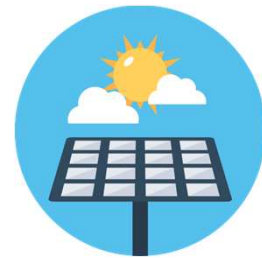
### ELECTRIFY

- The best way to run your home - for your budget and for the climate - is to have all electric appliances and cars powered by clean electricity. It's half the running costs of a fossil fuel home and it's how we'll have the biggest impact on climate this decade.
- Petrol cars, gas heaters, gas water heaters, gas stoves are increasingly expensive to run and release unhealthy particles into the air.
- Switching to efficient electric versions and powering them with clean electricity can deliver financial benefits.
- Embracing electric living is a key component of modern, sustainable homes.

### IF ROOFTOP SOLAR IS UNAVAILABLE

- Investigate opportunities to access community energy.
- A community energy trading system, Powertracer (by Enosi), is being used by members of our local community to trade solar energy between those who have solar panels and those who are unable to have solar. Potentially this will lower costs and reduce emissions.
- You need to check your current energy bill to compare the retailer's costs and potential financial implications of moving to the community energy trading.
- Central Coast Solar Shift is helping locals determine whether it may suit their needs. Individual circumstances may not suit this option.

## ACTION 4



### GO SOLAR

- Once there is a good baseline of energy use it is time to consider how to offset grid electricity. The most cost effective way to do this is via a rooftop solar system.
- Choosing the right system for a household depends on many factors.
- There are also considerations to be made in terms of the energy retailer and whether they have a solar friendly policy

## ACTION 5



### BATTERY STORAGE

- Battery storage ensures that we can utilise the excess energy generated during the day to power our evening requirements.
- Household battery storage is compact and an excellent way to further reduce our bill.
- As prices continue to reduce, batteries will become more viable, and should be considered in your electrification journey

## ACTION 6



### EXECUTE YOUR PLAN

- Do a stock of existing appliances- how old and when you think you could replace each item (see checklist)
- Look for opportunities to reduce heating and cooling.
- Investigate alternatives that will improve your home, save money, reduce emissions and lead to a healthier living space. (see alternatives guide)
- Research the available government schemes, grants and assistance programs to help on the action plan towards electrification. (see grants guide)

### TIPS:

- Prioritise replacing appliances that are more than 10 years old.
- Replace gas heating, cooktop and oven to improve indoor air quality
- Install rooftop solar to further reduce your running costs
- Improve the insulation and seal gaps in your home to reduce heating and cooling bills.
- Use the Climate Council Calculator to calculate your savings



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