

Your Warm Home Action Plan

Empowering Newcastle


























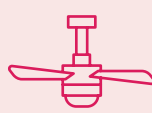



















Keep the chill out and slash your energy bills this winter.

These actions will not only make your home healthier and more comfortable but also lower your energy costs and reduce your emissions.

Category	Action	Impact	Cost	Effort	✓
Retrofitting your home  	Insulation Save up to 45% on heating and cooling costs	Check your ceiling insulation for gaps. A 5% gap in coverage can reduce its effectiveness by up to 50%. Use a thermal camera, check via the manhole or hire a professional.	 Free or 		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Install ceiling insulation (or top up insulation if it is old or less than R5.0). Between 25 to 35% of heat can be lost through the ceiling in winter.	  	 	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	If your home has a crawl space underneath, install underfloor insulation (aim for R2.0). Between 10% to 20% of heat can be lost through the floor in winter.	  	  	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Windows Windows account for up to 20% of heat loss from the home	Fit living and bedroom windows with plantation shutters or honeycomb blinds. Aim for an R-value of 2.5 or above.	  	 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Install heavy curtains and a pelmet . People who rent can install curtains and make a removable pelmet from a strip of corflute or cardboard to block airflow between the window and curtain.	  		<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Have a professional install window film which can reflect heat back into your home and/or improve the insulative qualities of the window.	  	 	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Draught proofing Sealing the gaps and cracks in your home can make a difference to your comfort and keep dust and insects out of your home	Install a draught excluder on all external doors. Door snakes are an easy option for renters.	 		<input type="checkbox"/>
	 Find and seal gaps around your home using gap filler and a caulking gun. Use it on skirting boards, floorboards, architraves, and visible gaps around cabinetry. Important note: if you have internal gas appliances, ventilation is needed in your home for safety reasons.	 		<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Apply perimeter seals around your doors and windows. Use v-shaped seals or rubber weather stripping.	 		<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Flooring 	Use large, thick rugs in living areas and bedrooms with hard flooring, such as floorboards, tiles and concrete. Rugs provide insulation, reduce draughts and are warmer on your feet.	 		<input type="checkbox"/>
Solar 	Consider installing rooftop solar panels to reduce your energy costs all year around.	-   	  	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Landscaping 	Plant deciduous trees on the north side of your home where they can provide shade in summer but let the sunlight through in winter.	 	 	<input type="checkbox"/>	



We are here to help
Visit **Empowering Newcastle**

Category		Action	Impact	Cost	Effort	✓	
Appliances		Heated blankets Heat your body, not the room	It's much cheaper to use an electric blanket on your bed to pre-warm it, or an electric throw rug for warming up movie nights or while working from home. Check out Choice's electric blanket guide .				<input type="checkbox"/>
		Air conditioners An efficient reverse-cycle air conditioner can be 6x more efficient than an electric heater and 7x more efficient than a gas wall heater	Install a reverse-cycle wall mounted split air conditioner. They are highly efficient, relatively cheap to run, control humidity, and can heat your home in winter too.			  	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Clean the filter on your air conditioner at the start of winter and summer each year, or monthly if you use it most days.		Free		<input type="checkbox"/>
			Organise a service for your air conditioner, particularly ducted systems where damage to tubing can waste power and reduce performance.				<input type="checkbox"/>
			Set the temperature to 18–20°C in winter. Each degree warmer adds about 10% to the running cost of the air conditioner.		Free		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Portable heaters 	Choose electric for portable heating. Check out Choice's electric heater buyer's guide for the best option for your situation. Unflued gas heaters are hazardous for your health and wood-burning heaters cause indoor and outdoor air pollution.		 – 	 	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Fans Activate reverse mode 	Use your ceiling fan on 'reverse mode' during winter to pull warmer air down and push colder air away. This is most effective when your air conditioner or electric heater is on.			 	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Behaviour		Warm retreat 	Create a warm retreat within your home. Focus your efforts on retrofitting a single room or area of your home. You can use a curtain on an extendable rod to block off/divide rooms to create a warm retreat.			 	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Daily actions	Open blinds and curtains to let the sun warm the house during the day. Close the house up in the early afternoon before the temperature drops.		Free		<input type="checkbox"/>
			Close off unused rooms to limit heat loss to areas you're not using, particularly areas with tiles or concrete floors such as bathrooms and laundries.		Free		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Pets 	Many pets feel the winter cold as well. Consider a winter coat during the day, and a blanket and a soft cushioned bed at night.	–			<input type="checkbox"/>	
Additional resources		Home Energy Assessment	Organise a home energy assessment, such as a Residential Efficiency Scorecard assessment, for professional advice and a tailored plan for your home.				<input type="checkbox"/>
		Borrow a Home Energy Kit	Borrow a Home Energy Kit from Newcastle Libraries and use the thermal imaging camera to identify gaps in your insulation as well as gaps in your home that are letting in unwanted cold air.				<input type="checkbox"/>
		Get connected	Join the My Efficient Electric Home (MEEH) Facebook group to learn and be inspired by fellow Australians making their homes more energy and thermally efficient.				<input type="checkbox"/>
		Read	Visit the Australian Government YourHome website for detailed information on retrofit options, or borrow the YourHome book from Newcastle Libraries.				<input type="checkbox"/>
		Loan a digital copy of 'Renew Magazine: Technology for a Sustainable Future' through Newcastle Libraries Libby app .					<input type="checkbox"/>

