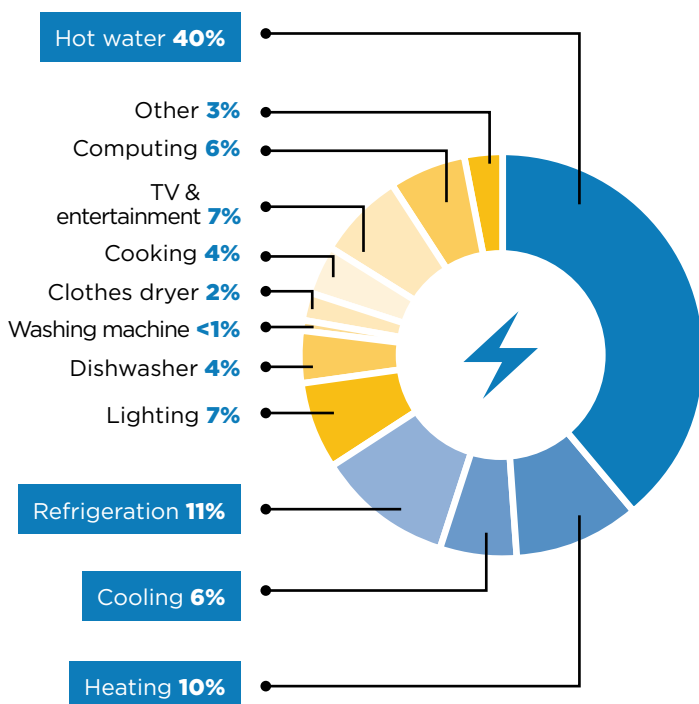


# Take control of your energy use

There are some simple steps you can follow to take control of your energy usage and save money on your electricity bills, even without a battery.

## NSW typical energy usage

The below diagram illustrates typical energy consumption for the average NSW home\*. The biggest energy users are hot water systems, refrigeration and heating or cooling systems.



\*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.

## Discover how you use your energy

To better control your energy usage, it's important to understand how much and when you are using energy in your home. There are several ways you can identify your usage. These include:

- **Electricity and gas bills:** Compare your daily average consumption for each billing period. This will indicate whether your consumption is increasing or decreasing and will show you how your energy usage varies across different seasons.
- **Meter data and solar inverters:** Some retailers may have a web portal or app to access your energy usage. Many solar inverters also have a display that shows the solar power generated.
- **In-home displays:** An in-home display collects detailed data and measures consumption by single appliances or the whole home.
- **Energy rating calculator:** Online tools, such as 'The Energy Rating Calculator' can help you work out how much energy each of your appliances is likely to be using and estimated running costs. Visit [www.energyrating.gov.au/calculator](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/calculator) to access the calculator.

# Reduce your energy consumption

Use these simple top tips to help reduce your energy usage and save money.



## Use less energy

Replace old light bulbs with LEDs, switch off appliances and lights when not in use, use less hot water, have shorter showers and wash clothes in cold water.



## Upgrade your home insulation

Upgrade your home insulation to use less energy on heating and cooling. Good building insulation, like ceiling batts, will most likely pay for itself sooner than either rooftop solar systems or batteries.



## Purchase energy efficient appliances

Always check the energy rating labels when you are shopping for a new appliance. Energy efficient appliances, with at least four stars on their Energy Rating label, may cost less over the life of the product, despite a higher upfront cost.



## Change your habits

If you are on a time of use tariff look at options to consume your energy out of peak times. For example running the washing machine late at night.



## Maximise your existing solar

If you have existing solar, run appliances when there is sunlight, pre-heat your house (in winter) or pre-cool your house (in summer).



## Add more solar panels

Add more solar panels or install a larger new solar system to cover more of your consumption in the evening and early morning. You could also receive a feed-in tariff payment for solar power exported to the grid.



## Energy Savings Scheme

There are incentives available to households for energy efficiency upgrades through the NSW Government's Energy Savings Scheme. Visit [ess.nsw.gov.au](http://ess.nsw.gov.au) for more information.



## Competitive pricing

Find the most competitively priced retailer to help you save money each year and ask for discounts for direct debit or on-time payments. Visit [energyswitch.service.nsw.gov.au](http://energyswitch.service.nsw.gov.au) to help find the most competitive offer.



## Additional tips

Visit [energysaver.nsw.gov.au](http://energysaver.nsw.gov.au) for more tips on how to fine-tune the energy used in your home and save money on your power bills.



**For more information, download the NSW Home Solar Battery Guide: [energysaver.nsw.gov.au/solar-battery-systems](http://energysaver.nsw.gov.au/solar-battery-systems)**

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