

WATTS GOING DOWN IN 100 SYDNEY HOMES.

Welcome to the February edition of City of Sydney's Home Energy Consumption Trial news – read on for information on making your monitor work harder for you and remember to send in your entry to our Bill Buster Competition - we are looking for the household that has made the biggest savings on energy use in their home.

Energy-saving champions of the month

The bills are coming in and there are great savings being made. We've had some trial participants excited to report savings of around \$40 on their bill (even though the price of electricity has increased) and many averaging a saving of 3kWh a day.

Here are some of the ways people saved on electricity.

"By focusing on turning off appliance switches at the wall, turning off lights in rooms we were not using, and having a better understanding of which appliances are "energy hungry", we were able to cut our energy use down from last period and same time last year by about 30%!!"

Ben, Surry Hills

"Looking at our quarterly electricity bill, our average daily usage is 6kWh. This is down from 17kWh from the last quarter and 11kWh for the same quarter last year."

Sarhn, Alexandria

"My current electricity bill is down from 10kWh to 7kWh! Something good is happening with that cent-a-meter, it can't all be due to turning off standby lights!"

Roberta, Glebe

"On our latest bill we're down about 2kWh/day compared with the same period last year."

Ziad, Camperdown

"We've saved almost 2kWh per day. Down to 6.8kWh in total. Not sure if I can drop lower but will try."

Tony, Waterloo

"Down from 31 to 26kWhs."

Sally, Alexandria

All of this month's champions receive sustainability store vouchers.

Bill Buster Competition

How many KiloWatts have you saved?

Compare your energy use on your electricity bills and tell us how you're tracking. Some of the figures we've received so far are very impressive. Just send us a copy of your bills to prove your savings to enter.

Send your photos, top tips, bills and stories to energytrial@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au



Sustainable Sydney

Get your monitor to work harder for you

When the monitors were installed most were set to \$2 which means the alarm will only go off if electricity use at any one time hit around 6kWh. A number of households have reset their monitors to \$1 (or even less!) which gives them a helpful alarm when lights and appliances are on and perhaps shouldn't be.

Changing the alarm setting

Did you know an alarm can be set for each tariff? Most households are on a single tariff, but if you are on time-of-day metering you may wish to set an alarm for each tariff.

Setting the alarm

To enter set-up mode push and hold the **SET** button for 2 seconds.

This will open the **COST** menu.

Push the **SET** button again to enter the menu for Tariff 1.

Push the **SET** button and the screen will show **TIME TAR 1...**

To enter the alarm menu, keep pushing the **SET** button until the display panel shows **ALM TAR 1.**

Pushing **SET** again will show if the alarm is **ON** or **OFF**.

If the alarm is **OFF**, press the **ADJUST** button to turn it on.

To change the alarm setting, push the **ADJUST** button and then push the **SET** button once.

The screen will show the current value for the alarm for this tariff. Most monitors have been set with an alarm for \$02.00.

To set the first digit, pushing the **ADJUST** button. Once this is set to the required value, push **SET** to move to the next digit.

Once the last digit is set, the screen will show **END TAR 1.**

If you need to set another alarm for other tariffs, push the **SET** and **ADJUST** buttons again and repeat the process.

If you only have one tariff, once you reach **END TAR 1** press the **SET** button and press the **MODE** button until **END COST** is displayed.

Press **SET** to return to **TIME**

Press the **MODE** button until **END** is displayed.

Press **SET** to return to normal function.

For detailed instructions [click here](#)



Top tip

"My top tip is to keep the oven door clean. I have noticed that as soon as you open the oven door, the meter goes sky high. So now we try and peer through the glass instead of opening it!"

Julie, Pyrmont

Julie's tip wins her a sustainability voucher. Remember opening the oven and opening the fridge door alters the temperature and means your appliances work harder and use more power to achieve the set temperature.

FREE Sustainable living Workshops

In addition to helping you make savings on energy use in your home, the City of Sydney runs FREE sustainable living workshops each month. [Click here](#) for information on seminars and workshops. Composting, worm farming, natural cleaning and home detox, sustainable eating and eco-choices for home renovators, are some of the Live Green programs available.

Subscribe to the City of Sydney's Live Green E-newsletter

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