

WATTS GOING DOWN IN 100 SYDNEY HOMES.

Welcome to the May edition of City of Sydney's Home Energy Consumption news – read on for information on free workshops and a few more ideas to reduce energy in your home.

Smarter, Greener apartment building

Tuesday 4 May, Customs House, Circular Quay, 6.00- 8.30pm

Want to green your apartment building but not sure how to begin? Tenants, owners' corporations and building managers are invited to a presentation on how to navigate the legal processes and demystify the decisions needed to make apartment buildings more sustainable.

Hear stories from residents who have successfully greened their buildings, and learn how to make your building both energy and water smart, save money, and improve waste management.

Details

Tuesday 4 May

Customs House Circular Quay

6.00 – 8.30pm refreshments provided.

To book online [click here](#) or phone ACF on 1800 223 669

Brought to you by the City of Sydney in partnership with the Australian Conservation Foundation's GreenHome Program and supported by the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Free workshops

The City's free [Sustainable Living Series](#) at the Home Ideas Centre in Alexandria, look at topics including solar power, insulation and water saving.

Our [Live Green Workshops](#) at Surry Hills Library and Community Centre explore solar power (May) installing rainwater tanks and later in the year – how to green your apartment building.

The City also offers free information and workshops at the [Watershed](#) with topics including sustainable eating, worm farming and composting, and natural cleaning.



Sustainable Sydney

Earth Hour

Earth Hour 2010 was again a tremendous success with billions of people in 126 countries and territories turning off their lights to show they cared about our planet. In Sydney's city centre, electricity use was cut by more than 6 per cent – the same amount of energy needed to power almost 1.3 million energy-efficient light bulbs for one hour. The next challenge is to make every hour, Earth Hour.

How are you tracking on your energy bill?

With electricity prices forecast to rise again, it's time to revisit your bill. Has your energy use gone down? When your next bill arrives, remember to look at KiloWatt hours used as well as the cost. Most bills include a graph that plots your use and compares electricity consumption with previous billing periods.

Eco Choices for Home Renovators

Renovate right and make savings. This workshop introduces the principles of passive design and provides practical information on choosing sustainable products and materials.

Details

Saturday May 22

Newtown Library (8-10 Brown Street Newtown)

10.00am – 1.00pm

Bookings phone the Watershed on 9519 6366

[click here](#)

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

For the latest sustainability initiatives, free workshops and programs for residents and information on rebates, green products, events and tips for green city living [click here](#)

New farmers markets at Taylor Square

If you're interested in locally grown, fresh or organic food, head to Sydney's newest weekly farmers market at Taylor Square – every Saturday from 8.00am to 1.00pm.

Taste seasonal fruit and vegetables (organic and low chemical inputs), discover free-range poultry and eggs, quality meats and fish, hand-made pasta, artisan cheeses, condiments, organic sourdough bread, olive oil, honey, flowers, herbs and more.

Chat to the local farmers and vendors on the day and find out more about sustainable food.

The Taylor Square markets are plastic bag free, so please remember to take your own reusable bags.

For more information contact Cathy Wills on cathyawills@gmail.com

Energy savings for winter

As we head into winter it's time to look at how to use less energy while keeping our homes warm. Overheating your home in winter can increase electricity and gas bills.

You can keep your heating costs lower by following the HEAT approach.

Hold in the heat – draught proof your home and cover windows.

Evaluate heating options and choose the right one for your home.

Act – take steps to become energy-efficient.

Temperatures and timers – set thermostats to about 20 degrees and use timers so appliances heat your home only when you need it.

For more information, see Energy Australia's winter heating guide [click here](#)

