

WINTER ENERGY BILLS

AVOID A SHOCK



With cold weather on the way it's a good time to think about managing your energy needs to cut those winter bills.

If you live in the eastern and southern states of Australia, your **average winter electricity bill can be up to \$200 or more than your summer bill, depending on where you live.**

So, it pays to make sure you're on the best retail offer for your needs. Speak to your retailer or look at government comparison sites like [Victorian Energy Compare](#) or [Energy Made Easy](#).

It's a similar story for gas given its role in heating and hot water systems. Again, it's our cooler, southern states that have increased costs during winter. In Victoria gas bills are \$336 higher compared to summer because of heating, while in Tasmania that adds up to \$587 more than in the warmer months.

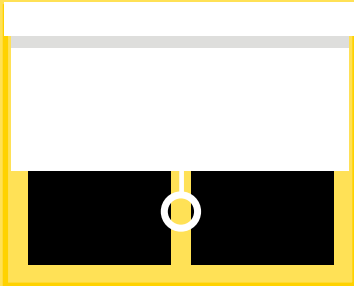
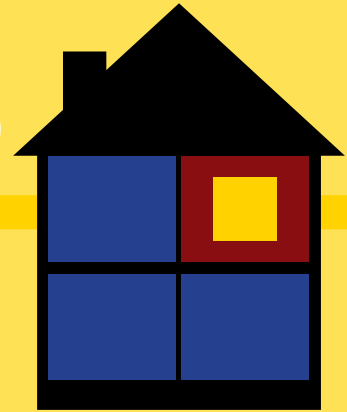
Average costs for electricity and gas, based on where you live and the season are shown on the following pages, as are the latest average amounts used by households, which show when you are likely to use most energy, depending on your location.

SIMPLE MEASURES THAT CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO YOUR ENERGY USE

Set your heating to around 19 degrees – it is estimated that every degree over 20 degrees can add 10 per cent to energy use.



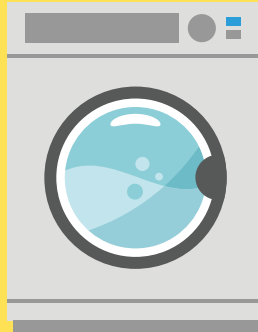
19°



Close doors, curtains and blinds when the sun goes down and when the sun is out, let it shine in!

Don't heat rooms that aren't being used

Use washing machines and dishwashers when they're full and set the shortest possible cycle. Use cold water to wash clothes where you can.



Avoid using clothes dryers as much as possible.



Deal with draughts. Doors can be draught protected using strips, or even bolsters.



Dress for colder weather.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DO IT'S HOW YOU DO IT

Consider how you are heating your house. The efficiency rating of your appliance, how often you use it, as well as the electricity or gas rate you are on will affect your bill.

Consideration of the type of appliance you use can uncover potential savings.

For example, a 5-star rated reverse cycle air conditioner is a relatively cost effective source of heating. Analysis of different types of heating shows that this is one of the least expensive ways to heat your home (go [here](#) for a rundown of the likely costs of different types of home heating systems). Equally, households that use gas space heating are estimated to use three times the level of gas of homes that don't.

Improving your home's thermal efficiency through improved insulation and double glazing of windows, while initially expensive to retrofit, can lead to substantial energy savings over time.

Speak to your energy retailer

Make sure you are on the best energy deal for your circumstances.

In Victoria you can do this by going to the State Government's [Victorian Energy Compare website](#).

In Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, South Australia, and Tasmania you can go to the Federal Government's [Energy Made Easy website](#).

Both provide independent comparisons of available energy deals.

Average electricity cost by state and season

State	DNSP	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Annual
ACT	EvoEnergy	\$361	\$429	\$568	\$401	\$1,759
NSW	Ausgrid	\$407	\$390	\$486	\$370	\$1,652
NSW	Endeavour	\$439	\$415	\$493	\$398	\$1,745
NSW	Essential	\$462	\$469	\$558	\$450	\$1,940
QLD	Energex	\$416	\$389	\$377	\$363	\$1,547
QLD	Ergon	\$464	\$429	\$410	\$399	\$1,701
SA	SAPN	\$478	\$483	\$575	\$457	\$1,993
TAS	TasNetworks	\$491	\$631	\$865	\$649	\$2,636
VIC	Ausnet	\$407	\$395	\$508	\$382	\$1,692
VIC	Citipower	\$298	\$303	\$389	\$297	\$1,287
VIC	Jemena	\$300	\$310	\$402	\$303	\$1,315
VIC	Powercor	\$357	\$357	\$450	\$348	\$1,512
VIC	United	\$328	\$329	\$407	\$320	\$1,384

Source: AEC analysis based on average charges and energy consumption by Distributed Network Service Provider. DNSP's manage the poles and wires in your area.

FACTSHEET: WINTER ENERGY BILLS- AVOID A SHOCK

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Average electricity consumption (kilowatt hours, kWh)

State	DNSP	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Annual
ACT	EvoEnergy	1258	1550	2168	1431	6407
NSW	Ausgrid	1360	1283	1679	1207	5529
NSW	Endeavour	1512	1403	1726	1340	5981
NSW	Essential	1291	1307	1639	1240	5477
QLD	Energex	1513	1380	1324	1264	5481
QLD	Ergon	1562	1408	1328	1290	5588
SA	SAPN	1181	1190	1465	1114	4950
TAS	TasNetworks	1536	2049	2915	2119	8619
VIC	Ausnet	1200	1149	1572	1102	5023
VIC	Citipower	983	999	1394	974	4350
VIC	Jemena	951	987	1383	958	4279
VIC	Powercor	1134	1124	1531	1090	4879
VIC	United	1065	1062	1387	1030	4544

Source: Residential energy consumption benchmarks. Distribution Network Service Provider data.

Tasmania has the highest winter electricity consumption with nearly twice its average summer use. Average consumption in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT is highest in winter, while Queensland's electricity use is highest in summer.

Average gas bill by states by season (\$/MJ)

State	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Annual
ACT	\$133	\$302	\$556	\$296	\$1,286
TAS	\$139	\$372	\$726	\$365	\$1,602
NSW	\$126	\$173	\$256	\$173	\$728
QLD	\$122	\$139	\$170	\$141	\$572
SA	\$134	\$192	\$290	\$200	\$816
VIC	\$133	\$240	\$469	\$276	\$1,118

Source: AEC analysis based on average charges and energy consumption

Average seasonal gas consumption by state (megajoules, MJ)

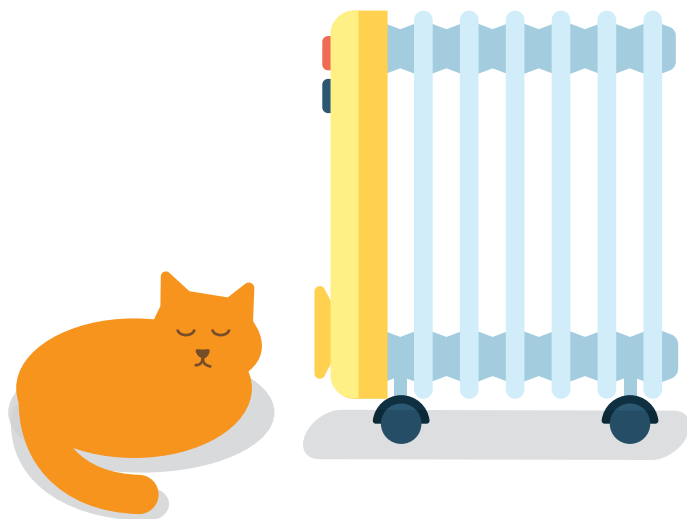
State	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Annual
ACT and TAS	2316	8029	16729	7853	34927
NSW	2533	4237	7339	4275	18384
QLD	1262	1694	2519	1763	7238
SA	2036	3681	6534	3948	16199
VIC	3999	10091	23435	12274	49799

Source: Residential Energy Consumption Benchmarks

Gas consumption is unsurprisingly higher in winter given its use in household heating.

Nearly half the annual gas use in Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT occurs in winter, in South Australia and New South Wales it accounts for 40 per cent of the total gas bill. Even in Queensland winter accounts for 35 per cent of annual household gas use.

Victoria has the highest average winter consumption (23,435MJ out of a yearly total of 49,779MJ).



- 1 Based on residential energy consumption benchmarks developed by Frontier Economics for the Australian Energy Regulator and published 9 December 2020. Electricity and gas market offers can be found [here](#). Single rate is used in the calculation, supply and usage charges are used as an average of the current offers from retailers within the area. For Ergon the general supply tariff (Tariff 11) is used.