

Laundry facilities

If your apartment or flat has communal laundry facilities encourage people to wash clothes in cold water. With the cooperation of your body corporate or owners corporation, place signs encouraging residents to use cold water, explaining that each wash with warm water wastes energy and produces 1.5kg more of greenhouse gas emissions.

Avoid using a dryer – Clothes dryers consume large amounts of energy. If you don't have access to an outside clothesline use a clothes horse inside your home.

If no clotheslines are available, but there is space to erect them, it might be worthwhile gauging the level of interest of other residents to have one or more erected.

Air conditioners

If your apartment has a centralised cooling system make sure it is running as efficiently as possible. Regular maintenance and accurate controls will ensure that your air conditioning system is running at its optimum level. Good shading of air conditioner units will also assist in lowering running costs, but make sure you maintain adequate airflow to the system.

Landscaping

Flats and units often have little shading from the summer sun. Planting trees and shrubs can provide shade on hot days, particularly if your flats or units are exposed to sun from the east and west.

Solar water heating

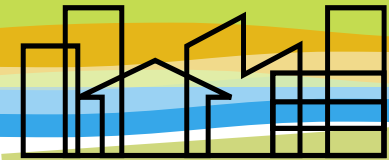
Explore options for installing solar hot water. It could be possible to use a single solar hot water system to provide hot water for more than one residence – your neighbours might be motivated to save energy and money too!

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Measures for reducing energy use in flats and apartments



6



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Measures for reducing energy use in flats and apartments

Lighting

Replace standard incandescent globes with compact fluorescents

Flats and apartments are usually required to have lighting in common property areas. Often the lighting is standard light globes (incandescent). Replacing these with compact fluorescent globes is simple and will generate continued savings.

Ensure lighting is not switched on for too long

Lighting in outdoor areas or stairwells is usually controlled by a timer. It is important to ensure that the timers are set correctly for different times of the year so that they are not left on during daylight hours. In certain situations it might be possible to install movement sensors to reduce light use even further.

Reducing common property light use by 2 hours a night could save over \$8 per year per light globe.

Install solar powered outdoor lighting

There are now available varieties of solar powered outdoor lighting that charge during daylight hours – make sure they are not put in a shaded position.

Sample savings from replacing incandescent globes with compact fluorescent lights

	20W CFL	100W Incandescent
running cost over 10,000 hours	\$19.20	\$96
average life	8,000	1,000
purchase cost	\$20 for 1 lamp	\$4 for 8 bulbs at 50c
Total cost for 1 lamp*	\$39.20	\$100
Total cost for 5 lamps*	\$196	\$500
Total cost for 10 lamps*	\$392	\$1000

Based on 12c per KWH | *Running and purchasing costs | Figures provided by Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd

For a block of flats with 5 external lights, changing incandescent light globes to compact fluorescent lighting would equate to approximate savings of \$140 per year. 8,000 hours @ 10 hours per night would represent approximately 2.2 years.

Rewiring of lighting

Are there sufficient controls for the lighting? Often in public areas there are insufficient light switches for lighting, meaning excessive lighting is switched on when only a small area needs to be lit. Installing additional lighting controls can reduce energy use by allowing you to light specific areas.

Lighting in larger apartments

Larger apartments often have tubular fluorescent lighting installed. There are now a number of more efficient varieties of fluorescent lighting and fittings available that provide more light for less energy use and longer life spans, for example tri-phosphor and quad-phosphor fluorescent light tubes.

Swimming pools

If your apartment or flat block has a heated pool, consider installing solar water heating. Installing a pool cover will save on energy use for heating and will save water by preventing evaporation.

Make sure the pool has a timer fitted to the filter and reduce the operating time to the recommended levels for winter and summer or dry and wet season.