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Home Assessments

Win!

- A week at Smiths Beach Resort
- A \$1000 Coles Group & Myer gift card

# Synergy Life

SPRING | 2009

**synergy**  
energy solutions you can use

# Switch off and save

Did you know you can reduce your electricity bill by up to 10 per cent by switching off power you don't need to be using?

Many household appliances and electronic devices continue to use power even when they are not being used. Commonly known as latent, standby or phantom power, this power can account for up to 10 per cent of your total electricity usage but can be virtually eliminated by unplugging devices and appliances when they are not in use.

While computers, televisions and stereos and their associated equipment account for more than 50 per cent of the standby power used in most homes, a myriad of other tiny devices also contribute. Did you know that the battery chargers for your phone, MP3 players, power drills or cameras, if left plugged in, will all continue to draw power even when they're not being used? And chargers will also continue to draw power even after the device has been fully charged?

With households now seeing the two recent tariff increases reflected in their power bills, Synergy understands that reducing electricity consumption has taken on a new importance for many households.

By reducing standby power consumption, you can not only help offset the effect of these tariff increases, but you can also contribute to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

You can find other energy solutions to help you save at [www.synergy.net.au/save](http://www.synergy.net.au/save)

# Energy efficient advice for renovators

While building a new home provides the perfect opportunity to be energy efficient from the ground up, there are still plenty of power-saving measures that can be easily incorporated into existing homes or into a renovation.

Following on from the success of our popular Energy Efficient Home Designer interactive web tool, Synergy has developed the Energy Efficient Home Renovator tool to demonstrate options that can improve the energy efficiency of an existing home.

Using the tool, customers can choose a three-dimensional model of a brick or timber home, and then the customer can rotate the model to see suggested energy saving solutions. For instance, it will show how deciduous trees, a pergola or an awning can stop the sun entering a north-facing window, helping you save energy. A thermometer will indicate the effect that various options will have on the inside temperature of the house.

Some suggestions are as simple as planting deciduous trees or moving brick paving from under north-facing windows and replacing them with water-wise ground covers. Others are more significant, such as adding solar panels or insulation.

Mario Tascone, who designs homes, said renovating gave homeowners the opportunity not only to create more comfortable living spaces but also the potential to reduce their power usage.

Mr Tascone said that while many changes did not add to the cost of a renovation, the minimal cost associated with other changes would be repaid, not just in lower running costs but also by having a more "user-friendly" house to live in.

To find out more information on building energy efficiency into your home, visit [www.synergy.net.au/renovator](http://www.synergy.net.au/renovator)

## Let Synergy help you with a FREE Synergy SmartWays® Home Assessment

You don't need to be renovating your home to become more energy efficient. Simply call **1800 675 113** for a free Synergy SmartWays® Home Assessment<sup>†</sup> today and receive:

- A FREE home energy inspection and assessment from a certified Fieldforce assessor
- A detailed written report with recommendations on how you can improve your energy efficiency, and
- Access to an interest free loan up to \$10,000\* to implement the recommendations from your assessment report<sup>††</sup>

For more information please visit [www.synergy.net.au/homeaudit](http://www.synergy.net.au/homeaudit)

<sup>†</sup>These free Home Sustainability Assessments are funded by the Australian Government's Green Loans Program, which also funds interest-free loans for recommended improvements. <sup>††</sup>Subject to lender terms and conditions. <sup>††</sup>For terms and conditions please visit [www.synergy.net.au/save](http://www.synergy.net.au/save). For more information: [www.environment.gov.au/greenloans](http://www.environment.gov.au/greenloans)



# Starlight Star Bright

Synergy wants to help our customers help others this Christmas.

So, we have committed to help by donating \$1 to a maximum of \$5,000 to the Starlight Children's Foundation for every visitor going to our [www.synergy.net.au/starlight](http://www.synergy.net.au/starlight) webpage.

The money donated by Synergy will go towards the Starlight Children's Christmas Appeal to help seriously ill children this Christmas.

Synergy is proud to be the largest sponsor of the Starlight Children's Express Room at Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). The Starlight Express Room is a place where Captain Starlight Express delivers a special brand of fun and entertainment, alongside the latest computer games, movies, crafts and activities. It's a medical-free respite where kids can be kids and escape the loneliness, boredom and stress of hospitalised life.

Plus, you could win a \$1,000 Coles Group & Myer Gift Card just by registering your details on the competition webpage.

So, click to get Synergy giving at [www.synergy.net.au/starlight](http://www.synergy.net.au/starlight)



If you wish to donate to the Starlight Christmas Appeal or would like further information on the Starlight Children's Foundation please visit [www.starlight.org.au](http://www.starlight.org.au) or phone 1300 727 827.





We are giving you the chance to win one of five Remote Control Outlet Power Boards\* making it easier to turn off hard to reach appliances and eliminating standby power.

To enter simply visit [www.synergy.net.au/billmanager](http://www.synergy.net.au/billmanager)

\*For terms and conditions please visit [www.synergy.net.au/competitions](http://www.synergy.net.au/competitions)

## Do you need a break?

Would you like to switch off for a week at Smiths Beach Resort with \$1,000 cash?\*

This fabulous prize includes accommodation in a two bedroom beach shack at the luxurious Smiths Beach Resort valued at \$1,200 plus \$1,000 spending money.

To enter simply call **1900 999 666**†.

\*For terms and conditions please visit [www.synergy.net.au/competitions](http://www.synergy.net.au/competitions)

† Service is provided by Active Call. Calls made from a landline are no more than 55 cents, while those made from mobiles, in STD areas and public phones attract higher rates.

## Clarification

Synergy would like to clarify some statements made in the autumn edition of Synergy Life. In this edition, we said most greenhouse gases were produced by some type of human activity. While human activity obviously contributes to greenhouse gases, the majority of greenhouse gases are in fact not caused by human activity. Of course, this should not stop humans from taking action to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions they cause. In addition, we also included a list of the causes of greenhouse gas emissions, placing the search for fossil fuels at the top of the list, which may have incorrectly given the impression it is a leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions when it is not. While Synergy sincerely apologises for including these statements, we welcomed the feedback and debate the article generated.

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energy solutions you can use