



Looking for a new year's resolution – Reduce your energy use

Households looking for a shared new year's resolution should look to consuming less energy in 2009, compared with 2008, Synergy recommended today.

Synergy spokesman, Andrew Gaspar said reducing energy use was good for both the environment and the hip pocket, and there were many easy ways households could kick the energy-guzzling habit, without impacting their lifestyle.

“Simple actions such as turning appliances off at the wall, closing curtains and blinds to keep the heat out, and using energy efficient lighting can reduce energy consumption. They are easy ways to keep the electricity bill down, and at the same time, reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr Gaspar said households should turn air-conditioners on early on very hot days rather than waiting until the home becomes hot.

“Also, households should try to set the temperature as high as it is comfortable, generally at 24°C and above. Each 1°C decrease can add as much as 10% to cooling costs.”

To monitor the progress of their new year's resolution, Mr Gaspar said customers could compare their 2009 energy consumption, with 2008 and earlier years by logging on to Synergy's My Account, at synergy.net.au.

“My Account allows customers to monitor their energy consumption, and they can track their 2009 electricity consumption against their 2008 consumption and earlier years.

“With My Account, customers can compare three years consumption at a time, including greenhouse gas emissions.”

“We encourage households to make a new year's resolution to keep their 2009 electricity consumption below 2008. It is easy to track the success of the resolution using My Account, and comparative graphs are also provided on customers printed bills.”

Mr Gaspar said if a household finds they consume more during one period in 2009, they should not give up their resolution, but log on to synergy.net.au for other simple energy saving tips.

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