



## Energy Efficiency and Productivity Strategy

November 2017

# Helping households manage energy costs

The Victorian Government is helping households to reduce their energy costs through a range of programs that will assist Victorians to use energy more efficiently and improve comfort and health. These programs are part of the Victorian Government's Energy Efficiency and Productivity Strategy, a \$55 million plan to improve energy productivity across the state.

Programs that can help households better manage energy costs include:

### Victorian Residential Efficiency Scorecard


This program invests \$5.7 million over four years to address a major gap for Victorians: practical information on how to improve the energy and hot weather performance of our homes. The program delivers a home energy performance rating tool to help households understand and improve energy performance.

 [victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/scorecard](http://victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/scorecard)

### Victorian Energy Upgrades

The program, formerly known as the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target scheme, provides discounted energy efficiency products and services to households through accredited providers. The program is expected to save participating households up to \$180 per year.

Since the program commenced, close to 1.7 million Victorian households have undertaken energy-saving upgrades to generate total savings of over \$300 million in 2017.

 [victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/victorian-energy-upgrades/savings-for-households](http://victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/victorian-energy-upgrades/savings-for-households)

### Beyond six-star homes

Will move Victoria towards a zero emissions residential building sector as part of the Government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. This initiative will be delivered through the following programs:

#### **Strengthened standards for new homes**

Invests \$1.8 million to improve the energy efficiency requirements for new homes in Victoria. Leading other Australian jurisdictions by example, Victoria will explore the potential for a whole-of-house approach to energy efficiency that goes beyond the thermal shell, and considers fixed appliances and renewable energy generation.

## CABINET-IN-CONFIDENCE

### Promoting best practice through volume home builders

Invests \$2.2 million to facilitate the design, marketing and construction of 'net zero emissions' homes. Delivered by Sustainability Victoria in partnership with volume home builders in Victoria, these new high-efficiency houses will incorporate on-site renewable energy generation and approach, or achieve, 'zero net carbon' emissions from household energy use over a typical year.

### Working with industry to lift compliance

Invests \$3.3 million to build industry capability and consumer confidence, as well as to understand the benefits of energy efficient features in new homes. This program delivers a targeted program of inspections to improve building industry compliance with energy efficiency regulations, and engages with new-home buyers to build consumer awareness of the benefits and comfort energy efficiency delivers in new homes.

### Energy efficiency information for residential properties

Invests \$0.9 million to establish the foundation to improve information for prospective purchasers or renters on the energy use of residential buildings, including consideration of requirements for residential energy efficiency information to be displayed when homes are sold or leased.

### Home Energy Assist

This initiative supports over 3,300 targeted Victorian households who are most in need, saving households \$12.6 million over 15 years.

Each Home Energy Assist program focusses on a different disadvantaged group, with different eligibility criteria.

### Healthy homes program

Invests \$6.5 million over four years to provide tailored home energy efficiency upgrades and advice to support 1,000 Victorian households who are most in need due to chronic health conditions and low incomes. The program focusses on households in Melbourne's western suburbs and the Goulburn Valley.

 [sustainability.vic.gov.au/services-and-advice/households/energy-efficiency/victorian-healthy-homes-program](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/services-and-advice/households/energy-efficiency/victorian-healthy-homes-program)

### Affordable Retrofits

This program commits \$6.1 million to deliver energy efficiency and solar upgrades to support 800 Victorian concession card holder households over four years. The program provides subsidies for larger-scale upgrades such as high efficiency heaters, hot water systems or solar panels, leveraging household co-contributions to deliver greater improvements to homes.

 [energy.vic.gov.au/affordable-retrofits-program](https://energy.vic.gov.au/affordable-retrofits-program)

### EnergySmart Public Housing

This program invests \$4.3 million over three years to upgrade energy efficiency in 1,500 public housing properties. This includes targeted upgrades for over 1,000 properties to replace inefficient electric hot water systems and electric heaters with highly efficient models, to reduce energy bills and improve living conditions for tenants.

 [housing.vic.gov.au/energysmart-public-housing-project](https://housing.vic.gov.au/energysmart-public-housing-project)

### Latrobe Valley Home Energy Upgrade

Invests \$5 million to deliver solar installations and energy upgrades to up to 1,000 vulnerable households in Latrobe City, Wellington & Baw Baw local government areas during 2017 and 2018.

 [lva.vic.gov.au/latrobe-valley-home-energy-upgrade/](https://lva.vic.gov.au/latrobe-valley-home-energy-upgrade/)

On top of programs to save energy, households can also save on their energy bills in the following ways:

### Victorian Energy Compare

A complete online energy comparison tool that allows users to compare electricity, gas and solar offers to find the best price for their household. Up to 90 per cent of users of the Victorian Energy Compare website can save money by switching retail offers, with typical savings of \$220 on annual electricity bills and \$150 on annual gas bills.

 [compare.switchon.vic.gov.au/](https://compare.switchon.vic.gov.au/)

### Victorian feed-in tariff increase

The recent increase in the Victorian feed-in tariff means that households and businesses who feed back into the electricity grid from small renewable energy sources (like solar panels) will be paid a higher minimum rate from their relevant retailer from 1 July 2017. Solar householders can save on energy costs by feeding excess electricity back into the grid at the new minimum tariff of 11.3 cents, increased from the previous rate of 5 cents per kilowatt hour.

 [energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorian-feed-in-tariff](https://energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorian-feed-in-tariff)

### Brokerage Pilot

Delivers an energy brokerage service, in partnership with a consumer advocacy organisation, for up to 10,000 vulnerable households. This will help vulnerable households find cheaper, more suitable energy offers.

To view the Energy Efficiency and Productivity Strategy visit [energy.vic.gov.au](https://energy.vic.gov.au)  
For questions or to share your thoughts on energy efficiency and productivity, email [energy.assistance@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:energy.assistance@delwp.vic.gov.au)

#### Find out more

To see what energy-saving upgrades are available and to find an accredited provider in your area, head to [victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au](https://victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au) or call (03) 9032 1310

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