Planning your upgrades – Home Worksheet

Some questions to consider to help you better understand your home, and what changes could suit your context and have the best impact on reducing your energy usage.

What are your motivations for upgrading your home? Tick those that apply.

● Improve comfort		● Improve health (e.g. asthmatic and want to get off gas, or less cold)	
● Reduce energy bills		● Reduce carbon emissions	
● Prepare for future climate		● Improve the value of the home	
● Have trade skills		● Want to learn	
● Other?			

Are there any challenges?

How is your home performing?

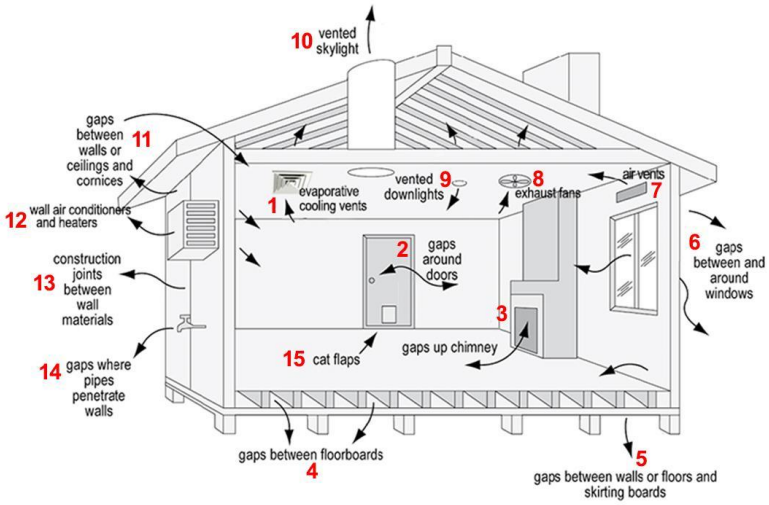
- Are you comfortable in your home, does it keep you warm in the winter, cool in the summer?
- What changes are you noticing in your energy bills?

Let's understand the Building Shell

- When was your home built?
- Has there been any major renovations?
- What's the orientation of the main living area (use google maps)?

Zoning & Draughts

- Do you use zoning in your home?
- If not, how might you use it to heat and cool smaller zones where most time is spent?
- Where is air leaking in your home? Can you see gaps or are there areas where you feel cold draughts?



- Use a candle/incense stick to help investigate, or use a thermal camera (available to rent as part of a 'Sustainable House Kit' from some libraries).
- More information on where and how to fix draughts at our Masterclass of Draught proofing on June 2 12:30pm webinar.

Insulation

- Do you have it – in your ceiling, walls and underfloor?
- Are there any gaps in coverage?
- What R value is it?

  If you don't know, use these assumptions based on the date your home was built and the corresponding building regulations codes:

Ceiling Insulation		Wall Insulation	
House build date	**R Value**	**House build date**	**R Value**
Pre 1991	R 1.5	Pre 1991	None
1991 - 2003	R 2.2	1991 - 2004	R 1.5 timber floor house
2004 - 2009	R 3.0	2004 - 2010	R 1.5
Post 2010	R 3.5	Post 2010	R 2.0
Current	R 4.4	Current	R 2.5

- More information on insulation types, fixes and issues at our Insulate for Home Comfort on July 7 12:30pm webinar.

Windows, Blinds & Shading

- Do you have any uncovered windows or skylights?
- Do your curtains/blinds reduce air flow across the window or have a pelmet?
- Which windows in your home are north, east or west facing? (use your home orientation to find out)
- Have you created any external shading on the north and west of the home to give summer shade? Can it be drawn back to allow winter sun?
- More information on how to get the best out of your windows, blinds, and shading at any budget, go to our Windows and blinds for comfort and efficiency Tuesday August 19 12:30pm webinar.

Heating & Cooling Appliances*

- What type of system do you have? How old is it? Is it ducted or a space heater/cooler?
- More information on which systems work best at our Efficient heating and cooling on June 17 12:30pm webinar.

Hot Water System*

- What type of system do you have? How old is it?
- What time of day does your system heat up the water?
- Are the pipes insulated?
- More information on why heat pumps are the best way to go and how to work out the right system for you at Intro to hot water heat pumps on July 22 12:30pm webinar.

Solar Panels

- If you have them, do you know how well they are working for your needs?
    - Do you load shift? If not, could you? What would help?
- If not, could solar be an option to explore? A typical 6.6kW system will attract a $2000 Federal rebate and a $1400 Solar Vic rebate plus an optional additional $1400 Solar Vic interest free loan.
- More information on maximizing savings and choosing the right system for you at our Solar and Batteries 101 on August 4 12:30pm webinar

Cooktop and Oven

- What type of system do you have? How old is it?

Transport

- How do you travel? How old is your vehicle?
- When might you be planning to upgrade in the future?
- What information do you need about electric vehicles to determine whether they are right for you? e.g. trip distances, etc.
- More information on novating leasing and market updates for electric vehicles and bikes at Electric vehicles/bikes webinar on 12:30 Monday September 1 webinar.

Other aspects of the home

- Have you upgraded your lights to LED?
- Are there any old/highly used appliances in your home? Such as fridges, freezers, clothes dryers, washing machines or solar panels.
- What is your shower flow rate? Video instructions for checking this are here: *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xT_diwaOYg*

Energy bill and usage

- What rate and plan are you on?
- Have you checked your bill to see if there is a better rate you could be on?
- Have you called your provider or checked the energy compare website in the last 12 months to find out whether you can get a better deal?

Budget Considerations

- What can I do to improve my home first without making major cost changes?
- When my appliances reach the end of their life, do I know what new products will be the most efficient to switch to?
- What changes make the most sense for reducing my energy use and align to my longer-term budget? What order should I do them in?
- Start mapping out what you can do over the short, medium and long term.

Key things to keep in mind:

- Heating and cooling accounts for at least 50% and can be up to 90% of the typical average annual energy bill - therefore draught proofing, insulation and upgrading to a more efficient heating and cooling system can be a good place to focus first.
- Prioritise efficiency measures to your living areas where you spend most of your time – cheapest to heat your body (e.g. electric throw blanket), or a closed room.
- 80% of households are not on the cheapest energy plan.
- Check to make sure you are taking advantage of any rebates or other financial incentives.

*If you are uncertain of your model: type of fuel used, age, efficiency, take a photo of the whole unit from a couple of directions, and a close up or two of the model plate and contact lucinda@goinggreensolutions.com.au