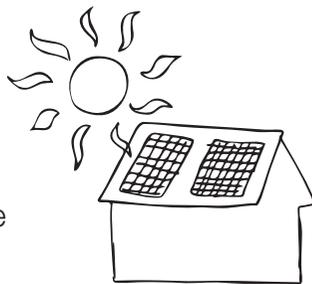


How solar power can work for you

Solar panels produce free, clean energy while the sun is shining. If you are at home during daylight hours and use power, solar makes sense for you. Solar energy can power your home during daylight hours, reducing the need to buy electricity. Any unused solar energy you produce is sold back to your electricity provider, who will credit your bill with a 'feed-in-tariff.'

Going solar is a great way to protect against rising energy bills as well as reducing pollution caused by coal powered electricity.

To find out more and get an obligation-free solar quote go to www.positivecharge.com.au



Simple, effective ways to save energy whilst caring for your health and comfort.

Who are we – and why do we care?

Moreland Energy Foundation (MEFL) was established by Moreland City Council in 2000 to help the community take action to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions.

Our Positive Charge team of energy experts provide the following services:

- » Free energy advice.
- » Linking households to trusted solar, insulation, draught-proofing and LED installers, and getting great deals for Moreland residents.

For more information or free advice, visit

www.positivecharge.com.au

or call our helpline on 9385 8555.

3 easy actions to reduce your electricity bills

1. Check if you can save money on your energy bills by comparing retailers at compare.switchon.vic.gov.au.
2. LED lights are extremely energy efficient and cost-effective. Replacing halogen downlights with LEDs can save you up to 89 per cent on your lighting bills.
3. Always remember to switch off your appliances when not in use. Try turning them off at the plugs as appliances on standby mode still consume power.



Saving energy and keeping safe in summer and winter

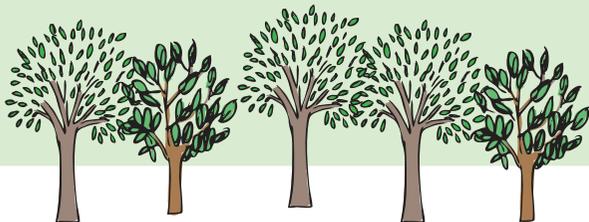
It's important to look after your health and comfort as well as keeping energy bills down. Both summer heat and prolonged exposure to cold can cause and worsen a range of medical conditions, especially cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.

Here are some tips on ways to keep healthy and comfortable throughout the year without it costing the earth.

Ensure your home protects you – In winter insulation and draught-proofing trap heat in your home like a cosy blanket. In summer insulation and draught-proofing keep cool air inside longer and the heat out. This will keep your home more comfortable year round and can save around 65 per cent on heating and cooling costs.

Use your fan wisely – Most ceiling fans have a switch on the motor to reverse direction in winter so that warm air that builds up near the ceiling is circulating back down into the room. Ceiling fans cost around 1 – 2 cents an hour to run, which is a fraction of the running cost of air conditioners. Run the heating or cooling device briefly then use the fan to circulate the hot or cold air.

Plant natural shading – Deciduous trees, which are trees that lose their leaves in autumn, will shade your home in summer and let light and warmth in during winter. Plant them on north and west sides of your home for the best results.



SUMMER CHECKLIST



- » **Wear light, airy clothing.**
- » **External shading** prevents sunlight and heat coming into your home. Retractable awnings, window blinds and trees can help do this.
- » Wash your clothes with **cold water** and **line-dry** them.
- » Open your windows in evenings for **cross-ventilation** to cool your home and bring fresh air into your house.
- » When using an air-conditioner, try keeping the temperature between **23 –26 °C**; every degree lower can increase your energy costs.

WINTER CHECKLIST



- » **Wear extra layers** inside as long as you feel comfortable.
- » Let your home soak in all the daytime heat by **opening blinds and curtains**, especially east-facing in the morning and north-facing in the afternoon. Close them at night to keep the heat in. **Heavy curtains** with **pelmet**s work well to keep the cold out.
- » **Close doors** of rooms you are not heating to prevent cold air creeping into every room in your home.
- » When heating, set the thermostat **between 18°C and 20°C**; every degree higher can increase your bill by up to 10 per cent.