

Saving energy at home — help for older residents

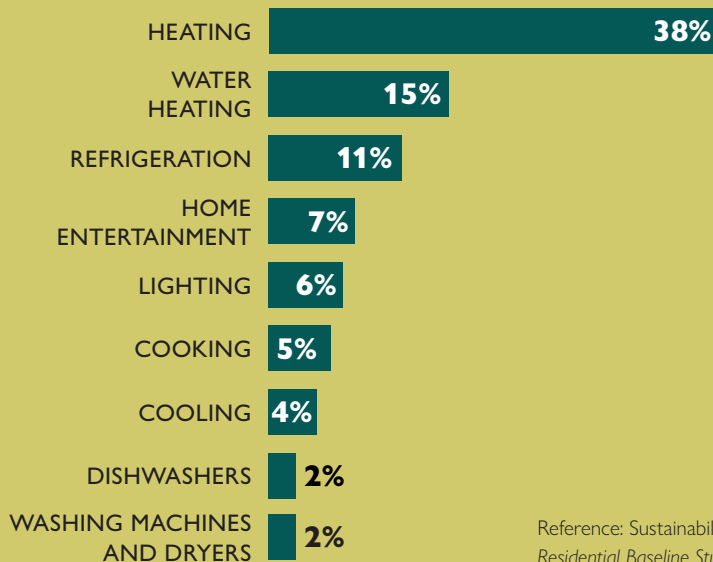


As our climate changes, we need homes that are fit for the future climate conditions we expect to see. A range of support options are available to help you save on energy bills and improve the efficiency and comfort of your home year-round.

Glen Eira City Council can help you install affordable, quality solar and access rebates and other support from the Victorian Government.

More than half of the typical Victorian household's electricity or gas bill consumption goes towards room and water heating, so it makes sense to improve insulation, reduce draughts and upgrade to efficient electric heating and hot water systems. More efficient fridges, lighting and other appliances all help to save energy too.

Typical Victorian household energy cost breakdown



Reference: Sustainability Victoria
Residential Baseline Study, 2016

Solar rebates and loans

Several rebates are available through the Victorian Government's *Solar Homes Program*. They include¹:

- Solar panels — \$1,400 plus the option of an interest-free loan.
- Solar batteries — \$2,950 (interest-free loans not available).
- Solar hot water systems — a 50 per cent rebate of up to \$1,000 towards the cost of a system.
- Solar panels for rental properties — \$1,400 plus the option of an interest-free loan.

¹Rebate values at September 2022 and are subject to change by the Victorian Government.

Visit www.solar.vic.gov.au

Call 1300 376 393

Affordable, quality solar panels

Join the growing number of Glen Eira residents enjoying the benefits of rooftop solar. Around 13 per cent of Glen Eira homes have solar panels which is increasing each year. If you are home during the day, you can make the most of free, renewable electricity with solar panels. Your solar system could pay itself back within three to five years (without batteries) with current Victorian Government rebates.

Glen Eira City Council is part of *Solar Savers*, a local government initiative helping people to install a quality and affordable solar system from an accredited installer. Homeowners, renters and businesses are eligible.

If you have a pension or health care card, you may be eligible for a discount and low interest loan from Bank Australia to pay off your solar system over 10 years.

Visit <https://solarsavers.org.au>
Call 1300 548 598



Victorian Government rebates and support

There are many financial incentives and supports to help Victorians save energy, cut costs and make their homes more comfortable in summer and winter. Visit www.victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au or call 1300 376 393.



Home heating and cooling rebates

Rebates of \$1,000 are available to upgrade older gas, electric and wood heaters with energy-efficient reverse-cycle air conditioners. Concession card holders and households with an income under \$90,000 are eligible. Households can receive an additional \$200 if they need to cap their old gas heater or \$500 to upgrade their switchboard.

Visit www.heatingupgrades.vic.gov.au
Call 1300 376 393

\$250 power saving bonus

All Victorian households can obtain a \$250 Power Saving Bonus by using the Victorian Energy Compare website to check for a better deal on gas and electricity. If you don't have internet access, you can apply over the phone. Users can typically save \$330 a year by comparing and then switching energy retailers².

To reduce carbon emissions, select the option 'Show Green Offers' to find electricity companies that offer 100 per cent renewable energy.

²According to Victorian Government estimates.

Visit <https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au>
Call 1300 376 393 for assistance



Discounted appliances and energy saving products

The *Victorian Energy Upgrades* program enables every Victorian household to access discounted efficient electric appliances and products. There are a wide range of eligible products available through accredited businesses — including hot water systems, efficient electric heating and cooling, lighting, draught proofing, fridges, freezers and clothes dryers.

Tenants are eligible too. Changes to Victoria's residential tenancy laws mean that your landlord can not unreasonably refuse requests for improvements that will boost the thermal comfort of your home, or cut energy and water usage costs.

Visit www.energy.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency/victorian-energy-upgrades
Call 136 186

No interest loans

If you have an income from Centrelink or are on a low income, the National Debt Helpline's *No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS)* provides access to credit, free of interest and charges. You can use *NILS* to upgrade to more efficient white goods such as fridges, dishwashers and washing machines.

Visit www.ndh.org.au
Call 1800 007 007



Energy concessions

If you hold a Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or Veterans' Affairs Gold Card, you may be eligible for energy bill concessions.

Annual Electricity Concession — 17.5 per cent electricity concession.

Medical Cooling Concession — additional 17.5 per cent electricity concession in summer for people with some medical conditions.

Life Support Concession — covers some power costs for certain life support machines.

Service to Property Charge Concession — reduced service costs for homes using very little electricity.

Winter Gas Concession — 17.5 per cent gas concession in winter.

Utility Relief Grant Scheme — covers unpaid energy bills, up to \$650 per utility in a two-year period. To apply, call your power company.

If you don't see concessions on your bill and you think you're eligible, contact your electricity and gas company.

Visit services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/energy
Call 1800 658 521

Would you like more information on how to cut your energy use and live more sustainably?

The Climate and Sustainability team at Glen Eira City Council can help.

Visit www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/saveenergy | Email sustainability@gleneira.vic.gov.au | Phone 9524 3333