

THE SUSTAINABILITY SERIES: ENERGY SECURITY

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What you can do...

- Set up a van pool, car pool or ride-sharing initiative with family, friends, colleagues and neighbours.
- Commit to buying and using vehicles with as small an engine as possible, preferably a 1200 to 1400cc engine that is more than adequate for driving to and from work. Or, even better, use a motorcycle or scooter, which will dramatically decrease traffic congestion, as well as cutting carbon emissions.
- Lobby city authorities to increase secure parking for two-wheel vehicles in order to encourage this mode of carbon- and traffic-friendly transport.
- If it's at all feasible, use a bicycle instead of your car for some of your local trips, or walk to your destination.
- Consider buying a manual lawn mower instead of an electric- or petrol-powered one.
- When you leave a room, turn off lights and only leave lights that are necessary for security burning all night long.
- Replace regular, incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), however don't throw the CFLs away in your rubbish bin, as mercury in the CFLs constitutes a hazardous substance. Eskom will be initiating a programme of collection and disposal of CFLs in a responsible way, so keep the burnt-out CFLs to one side and watch the press for details on collection points until then.
- Install ceiling fans and use portable fans or plant shade trees around your house to keep it cool in summer.
- To keep out direct sunlight, use retractable awnings, blinds and curtains.
- Install security doors and burglar bars so that doors and windows can safely be kept open in summer for a through draft.
- Use energy efficient air-conditioners and set thermostats at a point that will save energy while still keeping you comfortable.
- In winter, pile on jerseys and snuggle under blankets or quilts instead of using electric heaters and, if you must use a heater, try and make sure it is an efficient gas heater.
- In winter, wear warm sleepwear and socks to bed, put brushed cotton sheets on your bed and use an old-fashioned water bottle instead of switching on an electric blanket.
- Use draft excluders at the base of your exterior doors and windows to keep out drafts and seal up any other air leaks in your house.
- Insulate your ceiling.
- When buying new appliances, make sure that they are energy efficient appliances.
- Instead of using an energy guzzling tumble-dryer, dry your clothes on an outside line in summer and, in winter, use a drying rack or simple clotheshorse.
- Try to use your washing machine only when there is a full load of washing or if you need to do a half load, and use the economy programme.
- Use your washing machine at a low temperature setting, which uses



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ESKOM

HOT PROPERTY: Install a solar panel on the roof of your house.

- less energy than a higher temperature setting.
- As 7% of all electricity is used by appliances on standby, switch off appliances such as television sets, videos, stereos, computers and cordless phones when they are not being used.
- Try not to overfill your kettle and, if making one cup of tea, only heat enough water for the cup.
- Defrost your fridge regularly to keep it running efficiently and avoid putting hot or warm food into the fridge. Rather allow food to cool down first.
- If possible, use a dishwasher rather than washing dishes by hand – also make sure it is fully packed and wash on an economy cycle every time you use it.
- Because the geyser in your home uses 40% of your household electricity, switch off your geyser if you are going to be away from home for longer than two days and use an insulating blanket on the geyser and around the associated pipes on an on-going basis which will reduce the amount of heat lost to your roof.
- Reduce your electric geyser consumption by boosting with a solar water heater.
- Cook more efficiently by cooking with gas, making sure you have

- solid-based pots with tight-fitting lids. Simmer meals in a hotbox rather than on the stove.
 - Don't forget to reduce, recycle and re-use as recycled goods generally consume less energy to manufacture than new goods.
 - Take advantage of Eskom's energy savings advisory service by calling Lodine Redelinghuys on 021 558 1150 at Eskom's dedicated energy savings office in Edgemead for free advice from qualified energy advisors on how to make your home as energy efficient as possible.
 - In terms of an agreement between Eskom and the Cape Town Partnership, Eskom can be approached to assist with the energy efficiency upgrading of buildings in the Cape Town CBD, in which case Eskom will pay 50% of the upgrade costs once wastage has been identified through a feasibility study (not paid for by Eskom) conducted by elected BEE contractors.
- For further information about climate change, the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies and the Draft Sustainable Energy Strategy, among a host of interesting topics, go to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning's departmental blog at <http://www.sustainablehome4all.blogspot.com/>



BRIGHT SPARK: Electricity – lighting your world.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

THE THREE Rs: Don't forget to reduce, recycle and re-use as recycled goods generally consume less energy to manufacture than new goods.

The next title in the series will be Water Security. Contact Carole Knight at 021 855 2982 for further information.



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