



## How much energy does my household use

### stats & facts

Every day we use power in our homes. Things that we take for granted like cooking and eating, turning on the lights, and driving the car, all produce greenhouse gases which are contributing to climate change.

To reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and have a positive impact on climate change, it can be useful to get a better understanding of how much greenhouse gas our own household is generating.

You can use one of the many tools or calculators available on the Internet that are designed to track and measure greenhouse emissions.

#### How do I calculate my home's emissions?

If you are interested in finding out your household's greenhouse emissions it is important to first think about all the different ways your household uses energy. Generating and using this energy is what creates greenhouse gases in the first place. EPA Victoria has more information about the greenhouse effect on their website at: <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/greenhouse/default.asp>

Home entertainment systems, cleaning appliances and other electrical appliances used regularly can use a surprising amount of energy and according to Victoria's Resource Smart website ([http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for\\_households/appliances.html](http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households/appliances.html)) can account for about 40% of a household's greenhouse gas emissions.

There are several "emissions calculators" available on the web which will help guide you through the process of working out how much greenhouse gas your household generates.

#### Collect your bills

One of the first things most calculators ask for is an estimate of your electricity and gas use as tallied on your bills. It is good to have a year's worth of bills as this will cover possible high energy use periods in winter and summer. If you need help in making sure you enter the right figures into the calculator your energy supplier is likely to have a page on their website to help interpret your bill.

#### Look at heating, cooling and lighting

Many calculators ask for figures on how much of your house you heat or cool and how many lights you have on for how long each day. They may also want to know what type of lights you use. Different lighting options are outlined on the Resource Smart website [http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for\\_households/lighting.html](http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_households/lighting.html) or talk to your local lighting retailer.

#### Look at transport and vehicle use

If you don't know how much fuel you have used for transport or the fuel economy of your car, keep an eye on how far you drive for a week and how much fuel you use. Most calculators ask for an estimate of kilometres travelled annually by car, public transport and plane.

#### Track your food and consumables purchasing

If you are completing one of the more comprehensive greenhouse calculators they will often ask you details about how much meat, how much fresh local produce and how much processed food you purchase each week.

Energy costs are also hidden in the food you buy and how much water you use. Generally fresh, locally produced food has a lower associated energy cost because it travels less distance or fewer