

5 ways to manage your energy bills

1

Spread your bills

Ask your energy retailer if you can pay your bills monthly, fortnightly or even weekly to help manage your cash flow and make budgeting easier.

2

Lower your energy use

The less energy you use, the less you pay for. See the other side of this sheet for ideas about how you can save energy without making big changes to your lifestyle.

Always take care of your health and the health of those around you – don't take health risks while trying to save energy.

3

Get the best energy deal

Regularly compare your energy contract to make sure you're getting the best deal for your needs.

Search for and compare different energy offers in South Australia by using the Australian Government's Energy Made Easy comparison service, either online at energymadeeasy.gov.au or by calling 1300 585 165.

To make comparisons, you'll need information from a recent energy bill. For the best results, use your last year's worth of bills to compare your energy use across all seasons.

4

Find out if you're eligible for a concession

Visit sa.gov.au/concessions or call the ConcessionsSA Hotline on 1800 307 758 to find out if you are eligible for a concession to help with the cost of your energy bills.

For free energy saving advice, contact the Energy Advisory Service (see the contact details on the back of this flier). Alternatively, for help to understand or manage your bills, visit www.connected.org.au or call 8245 7100.

Contact your energy retailer if you are having trouble paying your bills, and don't wait until they're overdue. Your retailer can put you on a payment plan or into their hardship program, or direct you to other services that can help.

If you are having financial difficulties, a financial counsellor can help you manage your money. Call 1800 007 007 for free help.

If you're having problems with your energy retailer and haven't been able to solve them yourself, call the Energy and Water Ombudsman SA on 1800 665 565.

5

Know where to get help

Energy saving tips

- **Make the most of free heating and cooling**

Heat your home for free in winter by opening curtains and blinds during the day to let the sun in.

Keep your home cooler in summer by shading windows.

- **Take shorter showers**

Save water heating costs by trying to keep your showers to four minutes or less.

- **Use the clothes line instead of the clothes dryer**

Clothes dryers use a lot of energy — use a dryer as little as possible and clean the filter regularly.

- **Turn off second fridges and freezers**

Only run additional fridges and freezers when needed, for example — turn the drinks fridge off between parties.

- **Know how much your appliances cost to run**

Running costs for all the appliances in your home can add up quickly. Understanding costs means you can make better choices. Find out more at sa.gov.au/energy/runningcosts

- **Turn off lights**

Make it a habit to turn off lights when you leave a room, and install sensors on outdoor lights.

- **Use the microwave instead of the oven**

Smaller kitchen appliances usually use less energy than the oven, so will cost less to run.

- **Switch off appliances rather than using stand-by power**

Stand-by power adds to your energy costs. Switch appliances off at the wall to save.

Learn more about your own energy use

Do your own home energy audit

Do a basic home energy audit to find out how energy efficient your home is and what you can do to start saving energy.

Complete the audit online at sa.gov.au/homeenergyaudit or contact the Energy Advisory Service (details below) and we'll post you a free copy.

Borrow a Home Energy Toolkit

If you want to do a more detailed audit, a Home Energy Toolkit includes the tools and information to help.

You can borrow a toolkit for free from public libraries in South Australia.



Contact the Energy Advisory Service for free energy saving advice

Online: sa.gov.au/energy

Email: energyadvice@sa.gov.au

Phone: 8204 1888 or 1800 671 907 (free call from fixed lines)

Interpreting or translation assistance is available on request.



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of
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