

Tips to improve the efficiency of your home and keep heating costs down

- Cover your windows with heavy curtains or blinds at night to make a barrier between the cold outside air and windows, and open curtains during the day to allow in warm sunlight
- It's reported up to 25% of heat loss can come from draughts, so use draught stoppers on doors to prevent draughts and close up any gaps around windows, floors, or anywhere you can feel cold air entering the house
- To save on energy costs, set your heater thermostat to between 18 - 20 degrees Celsius for living areas and wear appropriate clothing. Every degree above 20 degrees Celsius adds 10% to your heating bill
- Use ceiling fans to push warm air down into your living spaces
- If possible, use insulation in house ceilings and walls
- Shut your doors to areas of the house that aren't in use
- When building a house or considering buying a property or renting, remember that a poorly designed and built house will have higher energy costs than a well-designed and insulated house.



TIPS TO KEEPING YOUR HOME WARM DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

Our climate is changing, and we need to change with it.

An informative flyer on climate change and ways we can be more resilient to climate risks

Climate adaptation

Council has developed a Climate Adaptation Plan which promotes the impacts and risks that climate change has on our community and educates us on how we can be more resilient to climate risks.

It's very real that our climate is changing as excessive greenhouse gas emissions are released, and our region is likely to experience changes in temperature and rainfall as a result. When you add current and projected increases in energy costs for both electricity and gas, you may end up with significant energy bills for less comfort.

This flyer provides tips and information you should know about climate change as winter takes hold, to help improve your comfort, wellbeing and reduce your energy costs.

Just implementing a couple of the following tips can make a difference for you.

Key facts about climate change impacts

Climate change will result in more extreme temperatures during winter.

In years of low rainfall, there is often little cloud cover which leads to more frequent and severe frosts. These low overnight temperatures can impact your health and wellbeing, particularly in a poorly designed and insulated house.

Under a changing climate, we are also likely to see more short but severe rainfall and storm events, so keep alert for warnings from Council and the Bureau of Meteorology regarding these events and take the necessary precautions to ensure your safety.

What you should know

If you are a concession card holder (Pensioner, Health Care Card or DVA Gold Card), talk to your energy retailer as you may be eligible for a rebate of up to 17.5% on your energy bill.

For further information and additional tips you can use, visit Council's website at www.greatershepparton.com.au

Sustainability Victoria's website at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

