

Media Release

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Top tips to help keep household energy use down this winter

Keeping warm this winter is not just a matter of turning up the thermostat on the heater. Origin Energy Community Relations Advisor, Lisa Glastonbury says the cooler months require a different approach to living by the whole household.

Based at Origin's gas fired Uranquinty Power Station, which supplies reliable, clean, safe electricity to homes along Australia's eastern seaboard; Lisa said that winter traditionally sees energy consumption increase as various heating appliances are used to keep us warm. This can add heat to home energy bills as well as placing added pressure on the grid and the environment.

"There are simple actions people can take to reduce energy consumption, save money on bills and reduce their home's greenhouse gas emissions" Ms Glastonbury said.

"For example if you live in a two storey home, the upper level will be warmer because warm air rises. If you can inhabit those areas more during winter, you will stay warmer."

Before anyone turns on the heater, she says make sure they are all wearing warm clothing. Simple measures such as heated throw rugs use 10 per cent of the energy of a standard electric heater, she says, while electric blankets are a better option in bed than running the heater all night.

Here are a few more simple tips from Origin to keep everyone warm and comfortable this winter.

1. First things first - Mind the Gap

Even before the chilly months arrive, ensure your home is well insulated and draught free with curtains or blinds securely fitted to large glass areas and doors.

2. Set temperatures wisely

Thermostats and heaters should be set at a MAXIMUM 8°C higher than outside temperatures. A higher degree setting means higher energy consumption and in turn can increase the cost on your energy bill by up to 10 per cent.

3. Let in natural light

Open blinds during sunny winter days and allow the sun to heat the inside of your home.

4. Cover up

If you spend a lot of time watching TV or sitting reading and a blanket just isn't warm enough - consider purchasing an electric throw rug that will consume far less energy than a small heater.

5. Change to energy efficient light globes

Energy efficient globes cut greenhouse gas emissions and running costs and still produce just as much light.

6. Check portable heaters

If you are using a portable heater, ensure it is well ventilated and clear of obstruction and always turn it off when you aren't using it.

7. Use what you have

If you have ceiling fans, reverse the blade rotation direction to force warm air away from the ceiling and back down to you.

8. Smaller is not always better

Smaller appliances do not necessarily use less energy, so check the input wattage listed on your unit or instruction booklet.

9. Switch it off

Many appliances still use electricity when they're doing little or nothing, so don't forget to turn off the TV or computer screen when you've finished using them or leaving the home.

10. It's the simple things

Sometimes it's the simplest things that can make a difference, try putting rugs on tiled or wooden floors to help keep the heat in.

For further information, please visit Origin's Energy Institute at www.energyinstitute.com.au

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About Origin Energy

Origin Energy is Australasia's leading integrated energy company focused on gas and oil exploration and production, power generation and energy retailing.

Listed in the ASX top 20 the company has approximately 4,000 employees, is a leading producer of gas in eastern Australia, is the largest owner and developer of gas-fired electricity generation in Australia and is a leading wholesaler and retailer of energy. The company services more than 3.5 million electricity, natural gas and LPG customers across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Origin's strategic positioning and portfolio of assets provide flexibility, stability and significant opportunities for growth in the ever changing energy industry. Through Australia Pacific LNG, its 50:50 incorporated joint venture with ConocoPhillips, Origin is developing one of Australia's largest CSG to LNG projects based on Australia's largest CSG reserves base.

In New Zealand, Origin is the major shareholder in Contact Energy, the country's leading integrated energy company, operating geothermal, thermal and hydro generation facilities and servicing electricity, gas and LPG customers across both the North and South islands. Origin also operates several oil and gas projects in New Zealand and is one of the largest holders of petroleum exploration acreage in the country.

Origin has a strong focus on ensuring the sustainability of its operations, is the largest green energy retailer in Australia and has significant investments in renewable energy technologies.

For more information go to: www.originenergy.com.au