

Support material #13:

The Origin energy efficiency website and calculator

Two key learning tools of the Home Energy Project are the Origin energy efficiency website and calculator. Both resources are located on the HEP CD, or online at www.originenergy.com.au/calculator.

The energy efficiency website

The energy efficiency website provides detailed tips and advice on how to make different rooms in your home more energy efficient.

The diagram allows you to click on different areas of your house and backyard to read a variety of energy saving tips and facts for various appliances used.

This icon provides information about energy ratings.

Click on the link and visit the energy efficiency calculator.

The energy efficiency calculator

The energy efficiency calculator provides a deeper understanding of energy consumption by detailing energy use room by room for a variety of appliances and linking use to the cost of energy in dollars and greenhouse gases.

The calculator works for households using gas or electricity or both. To start you will need to answer these questions.

Allows you to move through the different rooms of the house.

'My results' provides an energy summary of all data entered.

'Hints' provides facts and useful comments about energy usage.

The energy efficiency calculator is a guide only. Based on extensive research by Origin, its calculations are based on the typical energy consumption of various appliances. It is a shorthand way of converting use of appliances into energy consumption.

Factors to consider

- Where households have gas and electric hot water systems or heating, select the one used most often.
- Ensure that the correct rate is used, for example hours/week, hours/day. These rates are not the same for all appliances on the energy efficiency calculator and a slight error may result in significant differences.
- Some appliances that the household use might not be included on the energy efficiency calculator. If this is the case, make notes and estimate the usage time for those appliances and record the details in the energy journal.
- Students are asked to specify the star rating of some appliances. Additional information about star ratings can be viewed by clicking the hints icon or the energy ratings icon.
- When developing energy saving ideas, select ideas that are sustainable and achievable by the household.