

# Eco-Retrofitting for Your Home

## What?

Eco-retrofitting is the art of making changes to an existing home to reduce energy and water consumption and reusing and recycling materials. By eco-retrofitting your home you can help reduce your environmental impact.

## Why?

Eco-retrofitting your home can help to reduce your energy and water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. In the long-term by retrofitting your home you will save money on your water and energy bills.

## How?

There are many simple steps you can take, whether you own or rent a home, that will help to reduce the impact of your living practices on the environment. (Refer over page for helpful hints).

## Things to remember:

1. Remember, any changes that your landlord can make to green the property are tax deductible. It may be worth mentioning this to your landlord to encourage them to make more environmentally sustainable choices when replacing those hot water tanks, air conditioners, providing or improving insulation. Any additions such as awnings, blinds, or buying energy efficient appliances can also be included.
2. New replacement products are not always better. Appliances have an environmental impact in both their use and their production and disposal. Your old appliances often end in landfill if their parts can not be recycled or reused. Therefore, the most sustainable choice is to keep an old appliance instead of buying a new, more efficient model.

## How much will it cost?

When deciding to retrofit your home the costs are always variable. It is important to do your research and remember the Australian and State Governments have various rebate programs that will assist you in your eco-retrofit. Liverpool City Council may also offer rebates. Note, these rebates are subject to change from time to time.

## Want to know more?

You can find useful information by contacting the following organisations:

Description	Website	Phone Number
<b>GREEN RENTERS</b> Information for renters	<a href="http://www.greenrenters.org">www.greenrenters.org</a>	03 8300 0233
<b>LIVING GREENER</b> Provides information about reducing your environmental impact and government programs and rebates	<a href="http://www.livinggreener.gov.au">www.livinggreener.gov.au</a>	1800 106 059
<b>SYDNEY WATER</b> Information on how you can save water at home and participate in <i>Waterfix</i> .	<a href="http://www.sydneywater.com.au">www.sydneywater.com.au</a>	13 20 92
<b>ENVIRO PLUMBERS OR GREEN PLUMBERS</b> Network of plumbers trained to advise clients wanting to reduce their environmental impact at home	<a href="http://www.envirop plumber.com.au">www.envirop plumber.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.greenplumbers.com.au">www.greenplumbers.com.au</a>	8789 7000 1300 368 519
<b>BASIX</b> Sustainable planning measure	<a href="http://www.basix.nsw.gov.au">www.basix.nsw.gov.au</a>	1300 650 908
<b>ENERGY RATING</b> Guide to choosing energy efficient appliances	<a href="http://www.energyrating.gov.au">www.energyrating.gov.au</a>	Not Applicable
<b>SUSTAINABLE HOUSE</b> Information for sustainable house builders and renovators	<a href="http://www.sustainablehouse.com.au">www.sustainablehouse.com.au</a>	9310 2930

Solar hot water



Greywater shower diverter



Environmentally friendly paint



Installing insulation



Natural timber flooring

# Tips to help you retrofit your home

Action	Home Owner	Renter/ Tenant	How
<b>REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION</b>			
Install water efficient showerheads, flow restrictors or tap aerators	✓	✓	Costing less than \$10 and easily installed yourself, these are simple ways to reduce your water consumption.
Reuse stormwater	✓	✓	If renting, use buckets to capture downpipe runoff and water your plants. Some water tanks are mobile, for example, a converted wheelie bin. Visit your local hardware store to find out more.
Look for water consumption ratings on new products	✓	✓	The water rating system gives an estimate of the water consumption of the appliance you are considering for purchase. The more stars (0-6) on the label the more water efficient the product.
<b>REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION</b>			
Change your lighting to energy efficient globes	✓	✓	An easy and cost-effective step to reducing your energy consumption.
Install a clothesline	✓	✓	If renting in a flat/unit make sure a clothesline is available, if not ask if a communal clothesline can be placed on the premises.
Put up curtains or blinds	✓	✓	Up to 40 per cent of the heat that escapes your home is due to uncovered windows. Consider buying curtains or blinds second hand, or make them yourself.
Switch your electricity provider to accredited GreenPower	✓	✓	GreenPower is the easiest way to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70 per cent. Visit <a href="http://www.greenpower.org.au">www.greenpower.org.au</a> to find out more.
Look for energy efficiency star ratings on new products	✓	✓	The energy rating system gives an estimate of the power consumption of the appliance you are considering for purchase. Products which use a minimum of energy to complete the job they are designed for will have the best star rating, with the most stars.
<b>INTERIOR DECORATING</b>			
Use low volatile compound (VOC) paint	✓	✓	Low VOC paints do not emit toxic gases that pollute the air inside your home. If using wallpaper, consider natural, non-vinyl products such as split bamboo or grass.
Environmentally friendly furniture	✓	✓	Purchase vintage or antique furniture, avoiding these pieces being sent to landfill and the production of new products. If buying new furniture, look for FSC certification, low volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and products made from recycled materials.
<b>THE BACKYARD</b>			
Small backyard or balcony garden	✓	✓	There's always room for a garden! Plant herbs or veggies in containers. You can take them with you when you move.
Set up a worm farm or Bokashi system	✓	✓	These systems do not require much space. Whilst reducing your food scrap waste they also produce natural fertilisers for your garden.
Start a community garden for your unit block	✓	✓	Grow your own veggies to share with your neighbours. Ask your Strata manager or landlord.

