



DIY Home Energy Audits Home Energy Audit Toolkit (HEAT)

Would you like to reduce your household's energy costs and save money on your energy bills?

Do you want to work it out yourself ?

You can borrow, free of charge, a Home Energy Audit Toolkit (HEAT) from any library in Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

The **HEAT** allows households to undertake home energy audits in their own time and space and provides practical and affordable suggestions on how to save energy and dollars on energy bills.

Each **HEAT** contains:

Power Mate - Measures electricity consumption of electrical appliances with a standard 3-pin plug. Test your fridge; tv, microwave and computers plus their standby consumption. Old fridges use more power than new ones, halogen down-lights and plasma tvs are like heaters, standby costs you money!

Infrared radiometer - Used to check for leaks around fridge doors as well as checking for adequate ventilation behind the fridge/freezer and the effectiveness of ceiling insulation (Did your installer leave gaps and holes?).

Stopwatch - Assists in determining flow rate of hot water from showers & taps. Measure your water use in readiness for our next drought !

Compass - Identify: (i) your home's orientation for passive solar heating (encouraging Winter sun) or cooling (encouraging Summer shade) and (ii) whether you have a suitably oriented roof (North is best) for solar hot water and solar power panels.

Thermometer - Enables measurement of air temperature around houses, your hot water system, fridges and freezers.

12 Instruction and information sheets - instructions on how to use the tools in the kit and suggestions for do-able energy efficient actions for various appliances and/or activities.

Record sheet - For recording energy use of different appliances including stand-by usage to help find where electricity and money can be saved.

Case Studies - Two case studies of 'ordinary' Australian homes to show how achievable comfort and energy savings can be.

Feedback form - An evaluation sheet for use by the Energy Innovation Co-op.

EICo-op brochures - for you to keep!

The average Victorian household uses around 10,000 kWh of electricity each year. On present prices this costs about \$2000 for electricity plus \$300 in fixed charges. It should be possible to cut your electricity use by around 25%, giving potential savings of more than \$500 per year.

If you are already very careful about how you use electricity it will be harder to make this much saving, but you should be able to improve your comfort levels without using more electricity.

In a typical Victorian home 50% of the electricity use is for heating, a further 25% for heating hot water, followed by 8% for cooking and 9% for the fridge and freezer.

Conducting a home audit using the **HEAT** enables you to find out how much energy you and your family use around the home. Information sheets and the equipment in this kit will help you understand why you pay as much as you do for electricity, but more importantly will help you in making decisions that could save you hundreds of dollars each year.

To reserve a **HEAT** visit your local library or use the online catalogue at the [West Gippsland Regional library Corporation website](#).