

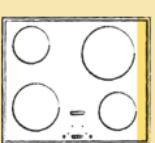
FACT SHEET

Renters

Introduction

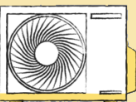
Renters make up a third of Australian households, and are left behind on reaping the full benefits of electric efficient homes. Rewiring Australia, and other organisations, are advocating for better renters rights to rectify this, such as minimum rental standards and mandatory energy disclosure. Whether you're a renter or not, write to your MP and demand the same. In the meantime, here are some actions renters can consider now.

Cooktop



A portable induction cooktop is a great option for renters. It can sit on your kitchen bench and plugs into your existing power points; no electrical upgrades or installation is required. And can be moved from house to house, is relatively cheap and just as energy efficient as installed cooktops. They're available from one to four elements, starting at around \$50.

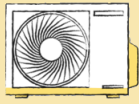
Space Heating



Consider a window unit, a portable reverse cycle air conditioner or present information to the landlord as a case for a reverse cycle air conditioner e.g. the health impacts of gas appliances and the requirement that gas equipment should be serviced as outlined in the manufacturer's instructions or at least every two years by a licensed gas fitter. If the appliance is more than 10 years old, it should be serviced annually.⁽¹⁾ To minimise heating and cooling costs, renters could seal up leaks, purchase temporary window glazing, install external shading such as plants, shade cloths or blinds and close curtains and doors.

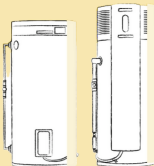
1. www.wa.gov.au/organisation/building-and-energy/gas-safety-home

Space Cooling



Space cooling requires significantly less energy than space heating. Using shading, plants, blinds and other passive ways to cool a home are incredibly important, but with temperatures set to rise, many of us will need air conditioners and that's ok. As long as we generate electricity with renewables, our air-cons will get the cost benefits from cheaper solar electricity.

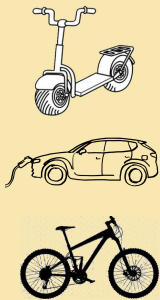
Hot water



Heating hot water is one of the biggest energy users in the home. 20%-30% of household energy use. To keep these costs under control and save energy it is good to install an efficient electric heat pump hot water system.

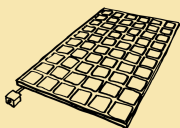
In WA, whether you're a renter or not, write to your MP and demand government rebates e.g. in NSW you can get \$2,500 - 3,000 worth of government rebates. In Victoria, the Solar Homes Program provides up to \$1,000.

Electric vehicles



The average Aussie home has 1.8 cars parked in their driveway and spends up to \$2700 every year filling them up. Our private cars are responsible for 16% of Australia's domestic emissions. Your first option could be to use active and public transport, an electric bike or scooter. But when you need a car, make it electric. This is the single biggest impact your household can make from both a bill savings and emissions savings. It won't be long until EVs are also cheaper (By 2030, EV prices are expected to drop to around 80% of the price of petrol counterparts). EVs are cleaner, healthier, cheaper to run and their ability to work as giant storage batteries will play an exciting role in our energy future. You can simply charge via a regular power point at home or make use of public charging stations.

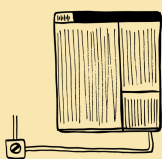
Rooftop Solar



If you are renting, consider discussing solar options with your landlord. Some landlords may be open to installing solar panels, especially as it enhances the property value and could be eligible for a tax deduction.

You could calculate a value proposition and negotiate a slight rental increase for the benefit of bill reduction. Purchasing 100% green energy is also available for renters to access renewable energy.

Home Battery



Unfortunately, asking for a battery from your landlord is challenging. Our advice is to first pitch having solar panels installed as the return on investment is just 3-5 years on average, making it an easier sale.

Join advocacy campaigns, such as with Rewiring Australia, which is calling for governments to do more to make electrification accessible for renters, including solar and batteries.

What else to consider

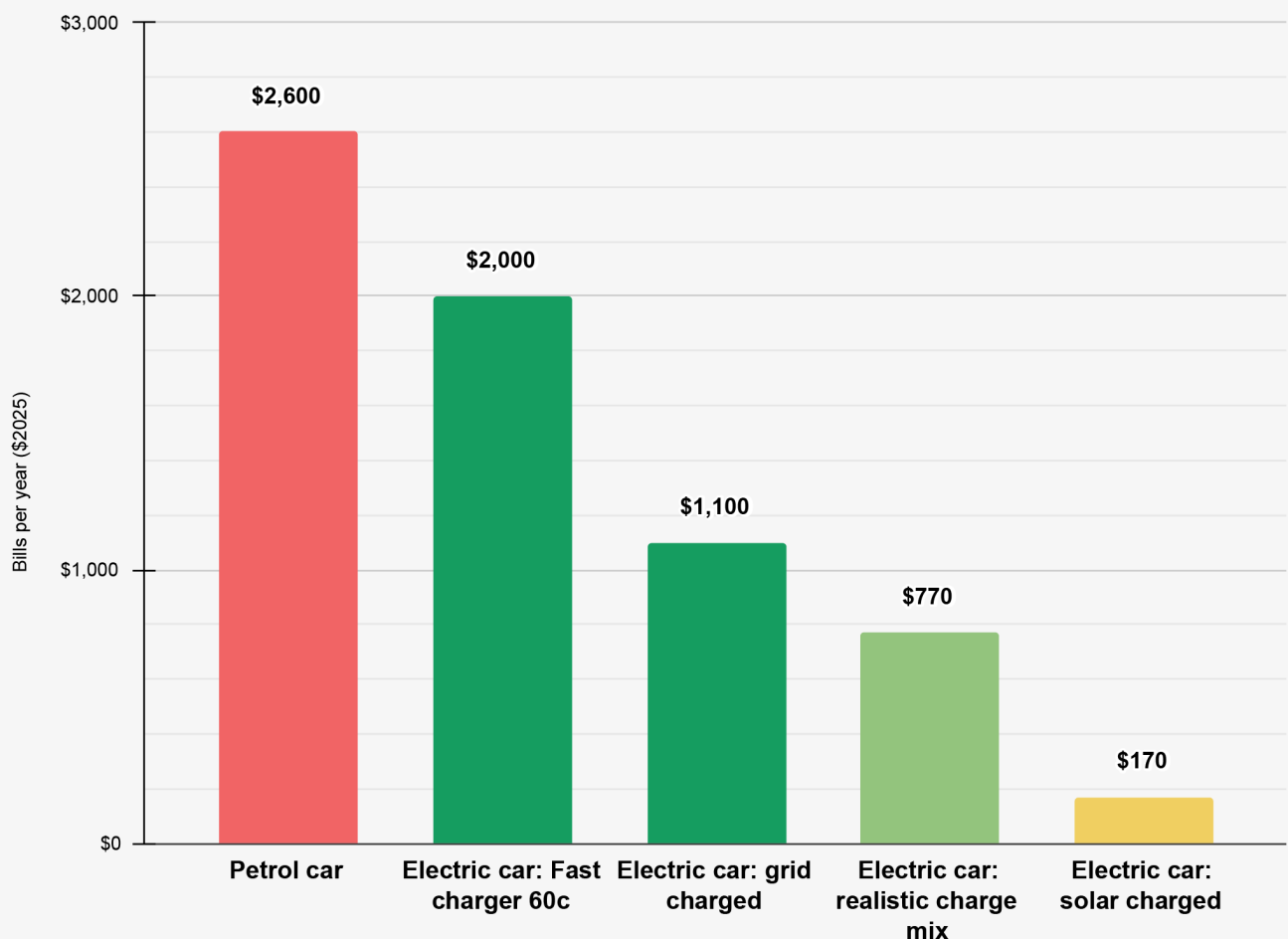
-  If in a Strata, talk to your Strata neighbours and the council of owners about getting off gas and putting electrification in the 10-year strata plan.
-  Set the air conditioner temperature to 19°C in winter and 24°C in summer and heat/cool only the spaces you occupy.
-  Limit time in the shower to 4 minutes to save energy.
-  Keeping the mixer tap in the cold position, stops the use of energy to heat water (remember the middle position is actually using some hot water).
-  When buying new electric appliances look for the most energy efficient because they are cheaper to run and will save money over time.
-  Using gas to cook pollutes the air in your home. Use energy efficient electric appliances instead e.g. portable induction cooktop, electric fry pan, air fryer, slow cookers, microwave.
-  Use an electric lap rug rather than heating the whole room.
-  Turn off all appliances when not in use (don't leave on standby) e.g. TV, power-hungry computers, gaming machines etc.
-  Thermal lined curtains are a good option to cover windows.
-  Seal up gaps to prevent heating /cooling loss e.g. gaps under and around doors and windows, fireplace flues. NOTE: if the home has an evaporative cooler on the roof, there needs to be a cover fitted from Autumn to Spring.

And repeating

We can't help repeating that the single biggest impact your household can make from both a bill savings and emissions savings is to use active and public transport, or an electric bike or scooter. But when you need a car, make it electric.

RUNNING COSTS: **VEHICLES**

Yearly driving cost comparison (2025 prices), average Australian driving 2



Sources: Rewiring Australia analysis. ABS motor vehicle survey 2018. 2025 electricity, petrol, and solar prices. 2025 new vehicle prices. Charge mix 50% solar, 35% grid, 15% public charging

About Rewiring Australia

Rewiring Australia is a non-profit, independent, non-partisan organisation dedicated to representing the people, households and communities in the energy system.

rewiringaustralia.org.au



Melville City Climate Action Network Inc.

is a grass-roots, non-profit, non-partisan, community organisation promoting actions to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

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**Melville City
Climate Action Network Inc.**

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