

Keep those power bills down!

We're all feeling the chill at this time of year, and now's a good time to look at power use in your home – small changes can make a big difference to your power bill!

Top tips for reducing your power bill

Ensure you're on the right electricity plan. If you're using less than 8000kw of power a year, it's cheaper to be on a low user plan. Use tools such as powerswitch.org.nz to check you're getting the best deal.

1. Switching off your old second fridge could save up to \$300 annually.
2. Use the free energy from the sun to dry clothes on an outside line, instead of in an electric dryer. You could save about \$200 annually (and it costs nothing to do this).
3. Run your heat pump on the most effective settings and clean the filter regularly to ensure it runs properly.
4. Change to energy-saving light bulbs. A change of just eight energy-saving bulbs equates to \$150 per year.
5. Check your shower usage. If the water from your shower can fill a bucket in less than a minute, you could save about \$150 annually by changing to a more efficient showerhead. Keep your showers short – in a household of three, each extra minute of shower time costs about \$80 annually.
6. Turning off appliances left on standby saves about \$125 annually.
7. Washing your clothes in cold water rather than warm water could save \$65 annually.
8. Stop heat escaping, and draughts, with DIY double glazing and good, thick curtains.
9. Buy energy-efficient appliances. Visit energywise.govt.nz/at-home/appliances for info on how to choose and use home appliances wisely.



What is Council doing to improve our air quality in winter?

Council provides education and advice on using woodburners, heat pumps and on insulating your home through its Eco-building advisory service.

Council's Eco-adviser visits community groups, retirement villages, refugee communities and special interest groups to talk to them about how to stay warmer for less money and burn smoke-free. Council's Good Wood scheme helps people source dry wood for their woodburner.

Compliance

Our compliance role involves investigating complaints against properties with smoky chimneys. This is usually an educational visit to see if we can help stop unwanted smoke. Most people find that they are able to solve the problem with one visit. If you need more

help, Council can advise on getting your flue and burner checked.

Monitoring

Council monitors air quality in Nelson's airsheds against national environmental standards and reports on this annually. Find out which airshed you are in at nelson.govt.nz/airsheds. Monitoring allows Council to track progress towards air quality goals. You can see the air quality results for your airshed at:

lawa.org.nz/explore-data/nelson-region/air-quality

What can you do?

Using your heat pump efficiently will keep your house warmer and drier, and help us create a sustainable city by using less power.



Buy energy-efficient appliances – Energy Rating Labels tell you how much electricity an appliance will use and allow you to compare the energy efficiency and running costs of appliances with similar features.

Using your wood burner efficiently will save you money, as wasting fuel is like burning your hard-earned cash.

- Buy your wood from a Good Wood supplier
- Make sure your fuel is dry and well stored

- Make sure your woodburner is working properly
- Light and use your fire the Burn Bright way by visiting nelson.govt.nz/burn-bright
- Talk to your neighbours if you see a problem with a smoky chimney – often a quick chat is better than making a complaint
- If the problem persists, contact Council and our officers will visit
- If you have a heat pump, use it on the most efficient settings and clean the air filters regularly.

