



# SUSTAINABLE LIVING AT WIRRAWAY



# SUSTAINABILITY AT WIRRAWAY

Wirraway has set a new benchmark in the Hunter Valley, becoming the first residential community in the region to receive the Urban Development Institute of Australia's esteemed EnviroDevelopment green tick of approval across; Ecosystems, Waste, Energy, Materials, Water and Community.

This means that Wirraway has been carefully designed to protect the environment and use resources responsibly. We want our communities to leave a positive legacy both socially and environmentally. DHA's contemporary housing encapsulates innovation, best-practice building and sustainability, using recycled materials and reducing waste, including using low-volatile organic compounds that help to reduce air pollution.

Each DHA home has a minimum 6-star energy efficiency rating, features solar panels and a 3,000 litre rainwater tank, which will help reduce the environmental impact and cost of living for residents. Where possible, homes have been designed to meet 'silver level' Liveable Housing Design Guidelines, which means they will meet the changing needs of occupants across their lifetime, from young families, people with a disability or ageing residents.



This guide is for reference only and does not provide specific professional or legal advice. References to other publications, resources and websites are for convenience only. Please make your own enquiries.



## GETTING THE MOST FROM SOLAR

We want to ensure that new homes minimise the impact on the environment and are low cost to run. This is why we have installed a CSR Bradford Solar system on each DHA home.

Solar is a great way to reduce your energy bills and feel good about doing something for the environment. Solar energy is produced when the sun comes up and stops when the sun goes down. For this reason it is best to use the solar energy produced during the day. The CSR Bradford Solar System includes the carbonTRACK monitoring system that has its very own app, allowing you to see how much energy your solar is producing. It also shows you how much energy you are consuming. On DHA homes, we have wired this to your air-conditioning circuit to allow you to set it on a timer, or even turn it on remotely from the app.

## HOW SOLAR WORKS

1. Renewable clean energy from the sun.
2. Solar panels collect the energy from the sun and convert it to DC electricity.
3. Inverter converts DC current to regular household electricity.

4. Regular household electricity is sent to the meter box and is available to run appliances.
5. Any surplus power generated by your solar system is sent to the grid.\*
6. The grid supplements any shortage of power.

\*If allowed by electricity provider.

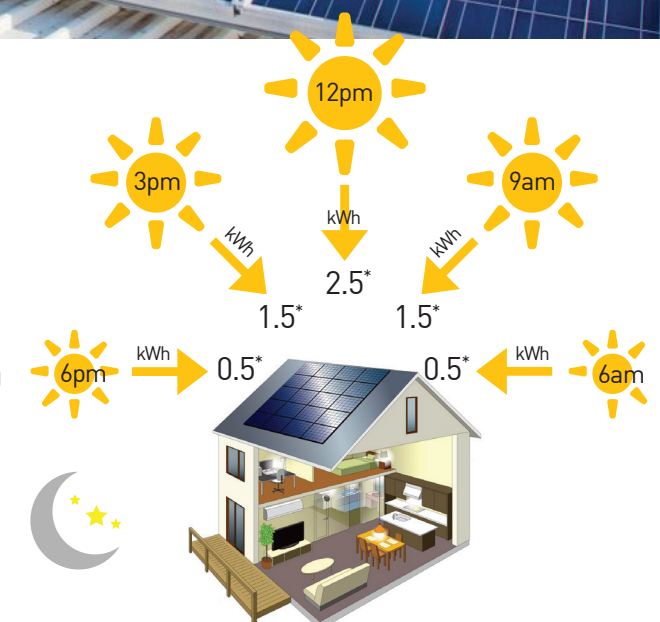


## LIFESTYLE CHANGE

### Use solar during peak solar productivity

Solar doesn't generate electricity 24 hours a day, but it does generate electricity when it is needed most—during the daytime when the demand for power (driven by power consuming appliances such as air-conditioners) is at its peak.

\*The estimated kWh are a guide only. Solar generation depends on various factors including location, system size, time of year/day and light levels. For more information see the Clean Energy Council's Consumer guide to solar PV. This information is based on a CSR Bradford Solar System.





# GREEN WASTE AND COMPOST

Half of household garbage is made up of food and garden waste. Green waste can be turned into nutrient rich soil you can use on your garden.

If you put green waste in your regular waste bin it ends up as landfill, so why not try composting!

Composting returns organic matter to the soil and improves the soil's ability to hold nutrients and moisture.

## How to compost

1. Choose a shady spot in your backyard for your compost bin
2. Add compostable materials, such as food scraps, garden waste and paper
3. Keep moist and aerate once a week
4. When it is dark and crumbly, mix into your garden soil or spread over the top as mulch

## What to compost

- Vegetable, fruit scraps and egg shells
- Shredded paper and cardboard
- Garden clippings and straw

## Did you know?

Maitland City Council offers a Garden Organics waste bin collection service, just call (02) 4934 9700.



# GET INTO RECYCLING

The average Australian produces about one tonne of garbage per year—equivalent to the weight of an average family sedan car. Household waste accounts for 35% of the landfill space. The remainder being commercial, industrial, hazardous and construction waste.

The detrimental environmental impacts of landfills, increasing costs of waste disposal, and consumption of natural resources, are all good reasons to reduce, reuse and recycle wastes.

The average domestic waste bin contains up to 20% of recyclable material that could have gone into the yellow lid recycling bin.

## What goes in the yellow lid bin?

- Cardboard/Paper
- Magazines
- Aerosols
- Glass bottles/jars
- Milk/juice cartons
- Aluminium/steel cans
- Marked plastic containers

## Tips

1. Take lids off containers and bottles
2. Containers and packaging should not contain food or liquids
3. Put items into the bin loose not in plastic bags

# TOP TIPS TO REDUCE WASTE

- 1 Choose products that are reusable or refillable
- 2 Use reusable bags when shopping, packing lunches or travelling
- 3 Choose products with minimal packaging
- 4 Create a meal plan each week, and write a shopping list so you purchase only what you need
- 5 Repair or restore broken items of furniture or appliances
- 6 Fill your own drink containers at home, rather than purchasing bottled drinks on the go
- 7 Swap kitchen paper towel for reusable towels
- 8 Pack a waste-free lunch
- 9 Make your own household cleaners or purchase concentrated ones and mix yourself
- 10 Use rechargeable batteries
- 11 Place food scraps into a compost bin



## REDUCE

Reduce the amount of waste created. For example, choose products with less packaging.



## REUSE

Use things more than once or donate to an op-shop. For example, use clean ice-cream tubs to store loose items.



## RECYCLE

The items placed in your recycling bins are turned back into raw materials to make new products.





# WATER SMART

## Water-efficient fixtures and appliances

Fixtures and appliances that have a high star rating, using the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS), significantly reduces water usage. The more stars on the rating, the less water will be consumed and the more money you will save.

As such, each DHA home has water-efficient shower heads and dual-flush toilets.

## Facts<sup>1</sup>

- A water-efficient showerhead saves about 14,500 litres of water per household each year.
- A water-efficient dual-flush toilet reduces household water use by around 30,000 to 40,000 litres per household per year.
- A water-efficient clothes washer uses one-third less water compared to an older model.

## Water-efficient gardening

Nearly 80% of the plants at Wirraway are native drought-tolerant plants, which have been topped with mulch to prevent the soil drying out. While the warm-season buffalo grass uses 30% less water than a cool-season grass. You can add compost and manures to your soil to provide food for plants and enrich the water retention capacity of your soil.

<sup>1</sup>Source: Australian Government Water Rating <http://www.waterrating.gov.au/consumers/water-efficiency>



# SAVE ON ENERGY

Even if your house is very energy efficient, the way you live inside your home will have a big impact on your energy use and costs.

Here are some simple steps that can lower your household energy use:

## Compare energy plans

See if you can get a cheaper deal that suits your needs. Also, using solar energy can reduce your carbon footprint and your next power bill.

## Choose wisely

Your household appliances may be energy inefficient and costing you a fortune to use on a daily basis. Replacing these appliances or using them less often can help cut costs. Look out for an Energy Rating label when choosing between appliances—the more stars, the more efficient it is.

## Switch off

Standby mode on the television, DVD player, stereo, game console and computer still uses energy, so turn these appliances off at the wall when they are not being used. Appliances that are left plugged in can add up to 10% of your yearly power bill.



# USEFUL CONTACTS

## Maitland City Council

(02) 4934 9700  
[info@maitland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@maitland.nsw.gov.au)  
285 – 287 High Street  
PO Box 220, Maitland NSW 2320  
Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 5pm  
Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm  
[www.maitland.nsw.gov.au](http://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au)

## Mt Vincent Road Waste Management Centre

(02) 4934 1888  
109 Mt Vincent Road, East Maitland  
8.15am – 4pm  
(Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday)

## Hunter Resource Recovery Recycling Hotline

1800 838 884  
43 – 47 Bulwer Street, Maitland  
Monday to Friday 8am – 4.30pm  
[www.hrr.com.au](http://www.hrr.com.au)  
[www.recycleright.com.au](http://www.recycleright.com.au)

## Small Acts, Big Change – Hunter Councils

Campaign for a better environment  
[www.smallactsbigchange.com.au](http://www.smallactsbigchange.com.au)

## Australian Government Your Energy Savings

[www.yourenergysavings.gov.au](http://www.yourenergysavings.gov.au)

# TOP TIPS TO SAVE

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1 Switch off appliances at the wall            | 4 Switch to off-peak and save on your hot water | 7 Use a clothesline instead of a dryer |
| 2 Consider solar lights for your outdoor areas | 5 Use an electric kettle rather than the stove  | 8 Use water-saving shower heads        |
| 3 Use the economy cycle on your dishwasher     | 6 Only run the washing machine for a full load  | 9 Turn the tap off when soaping hands  |







# EMERGENCY RESOURCES

## **Life threatening emergencies**

### **Police/Fire/Ambulance**

000 (triple zero)

### **Beresfield Police Station**

(02) 4966 3344

8A Lawson Avenue, Beresfield

### **Tarro Fire Station**

(02) 4966 3998

### **NSW Rural Fire Service**

1800 679 737

### **State Emergency Service**

132 500

### **Electricity, water or gas**

AGL – 131 245

Energy Australia – 133 466

Red Energy – 131 806

Origin Energy – 13 24 61

Jemena – 131 909

Hunter Water – 1300 657 000

# PLAN AHEAD

Preparation is the key to survival. By planning ahead you can help to reduce the risk of injury and of damage to your property, and stay calm in an emergency.

A household emergency plan should be put together as a family.

Fill in the household emergency plan here:  
[www.seshomeemergencyplan.com.au](http://www.seshomeemergencyplan.com.au)