

Energy Efficiency in the Home – Things to Think Through and Suppliers

Questions to consider:

- Any renovations planned? Upgrading insulation or glazing during a renovation is much easier than at any other time. Ensure that you specify great insulation and glazing – don't wait until construction is underway!
- What maintenance headaches do you have? Any appliances reaching end of life? Windows that need replacing anyway?
- What are your energy consumption pain points? Gas \$/year? Electricity \$/year?
- Where is your home uncomfortably hot in summer/ cold in winter?
- Where is your energy going?
 - What's your insulation like? Glazing? Leaks/ draughts? Curtains with or without pelmets?
 - What type and age of Heating, Cooling do you have?
 - What type and age of hot water unit?
 - Pool or Spa? How is this heated? What time(s) do the pumps run?
 - Light types? Any halogen downlights (heat leaks, energy hogs, fire potential)?
 - Fridge, Dishwasher, Washing machine – age, leaks, do dishwasher / washing machine have timers?
 - Entertainment and IT – consider measuring consumption.
- What's the time of use of your electricity? Can you shift existing consumption into the daytime to match a solar PV system? Note that future tariff changes will reward "flat" rather than peaky consumption.
- Can you eliminate your gas consumption and your gas bill by switching to electricity – and then generating that electricity by solar PV? Induction cooktop, heat pump hot water and heat pump space heating are all very efficient electric alternatives to gas – eliminate the gas fixed charge from your bills.
- What's your roof like for installation of solar PV?
 - Shading? Roof materials?
 - North and West facing sections? Roof Access?
- Location for inverter and future batteries?

Great Suppliers and Websites:

- Useful information pack on home energy efficiency, PV etc:
www.efficientinitiatives.com.au/energy-at-home/
- Thermal performance analysis, insulation and draught proofing: www.ecomaster.com.au
- Low cost secondary glazing (Perspex secondary layer installed inside your existing window):
www.ecoglaze.com.au
- Heat pumps and solar hot water: www.bestsolarhotwater.com.au
- LED lighting: www.cherryled.com.au
- Pool pumps: www.astralpool.com.au/products/viron

About Efficient Initiatives

Efficient Initiatives (EI) is a specialist energy efficiency designer and project manager. EI works with businesses and homes to help them dramatically reduce energy consumption while improving building comfort. EI takes a sustainable and holistic approach to energy: reducing consumption and improving comfort while generating renewable energy to reduce cost. We work with selected partner companies to achieve a significant dollar and carbon saving for our customers.

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