

Autumn 07

# green living



## IN GOSFORD NEWSNEWSNEWSNEWS

### Welcome to the Autumn Issue of Green Living News!

This edition of the newsletter focusses on Climate Change and what you can do to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the coming months, Gosford City Council will be encouraging residents to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by switching to GreenPower. I have enclosed information on this program and encourage everyone to get involved.

I have also enclosed an Energy and Climate Change Survey. Fill it out and return it in the reply-paid envelope for your chance to win a home energy audit.

We are also running a great new 'green tip of the week' competition and want to hear your ideas. See overleaf for details.

I hope you enjoy this Issue.

Michelle

*"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."*

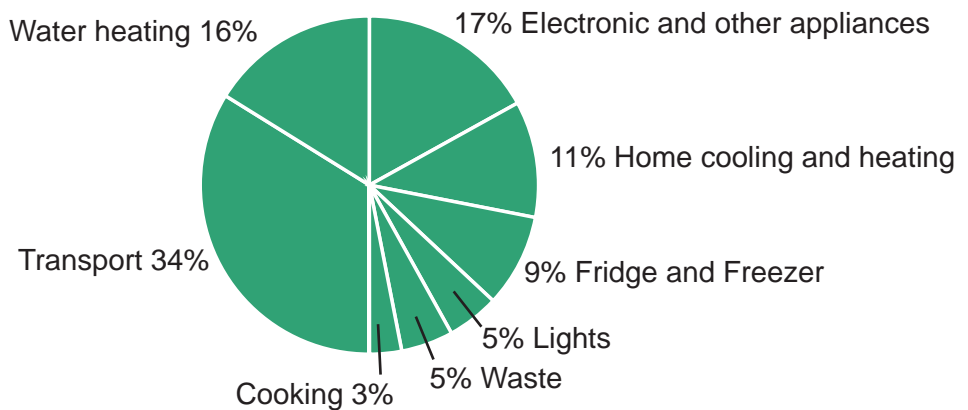
ALBERT EINSTEIN

## Climate Change - cool it!

Australian households generate almost one-fifth of Australia's greenhouse gases, about 14 tonnes per household each year. The main household activities that produce greenhouse gases are using electricity generated by burning fossil fuels, transport fuelled by fossil fuels and the breakdown of food and plant wastes and sewage.

### Household Greenhouse Gas Emissions

(Source: the Australian Greenhouse Office)



### What can you do?

An average family can save several tonnes of greenhouse gases and hundreds of dollars each year by reducing energy use in the home, switching to GreenPower and choosing low greenhouse-impact transport options like a bicycle or public transport.

### What about going 'carbon neutral'?

It's important to cut your greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible by making smart choices with transport and electricity use, however it's impossible to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to zero. Going carbon neutral by purchasing 'carbon offsets' is a way of managing our remaining emissions.

### Eco Myth Buster

**Myth:** That Climate Change will not impact on the environment in our lifetime.

**Fact:** The impacts of climate change are already being felt around the world. For example, an Indigenous group that live on an island in Alaska is being forced to more to the mainland due to rising waters and fierce storms.



# Impacts of Climate Change

Research by the world's scientists, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, shows that:

- on average, the Earth is warming. Its temperature has already risen by around 0.7 degrees over the past 100 years, and may rise by between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees this century.
- sea levels are rising due to oceans expanding and glaciers and ice sheets melting—by 2100 sea levels may be from 9 to 88 centimetres higher.
- changes in weather patterns will intensify e.g. more severe droughts, heatwaves, floods and storms; changes in rainfall patterns; and a higher likelihood of bushfires.
- adverse impacts on plants and animals, agriculture and human health will result as climate patterns shift.
- Australia is very vulnerable to the various impacts of climate change. Globally, the 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 1990.
- 2005 was Australia's warmest year on record, 1.1 degrees above the average for the period 1961 to 1990.

Source: 'Global Warming - cool it!' produced by the Australian Greenhouse Office.

## GREEN LIVING NEWS

Would you like to be included on the mailing list?

Call Council's Environmental Education Officer on 4325 8175 or email: [green.living@gosford.nsw.gov.au](mailto:green.living@gosford.nsw.gov.au)

## Composting in Your Garden

The average Australian garbage bin contains up to 50% garden and food waste. By beginning your own compost heap you can greatly reduce your waste going to landfill, give back some of the nutrients we have taken from the soil, and when used as mulch on your garden, can reduce water evaporation up to 70%!

Diverting your garden and food waste from landfill, either by composting at home or by using your green bin for garden waste, will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



### What can you compost?

Anything that was once a plant or animal can be composted, including – fruit and vegetable peelings, newspapers, grass clippings, weeds, tea leaves, coffee grounds, egg shells, old potting mix, dead flowers, human and animal hair.

### 5 easy steps to great compost

- To get started, choose a well-drained site that gets plenty of shade in summer.
- To build the compost, start with a thick layer (15cm) of twigs and coarse mulch e.g. straw at the base for drainage.
- Layer your compost by adding a thin layer of kitchen organics and green garden organics. Cover with a layer of brown garden organics ensuring no food waste is left exposed.
  - Wet lightly, but remember your compost heap should be moist not wet.
  - For good quality compost it is important to add air, so to turn it once every few weeks with a fork or shovel.



# green

## tip of the week competition!

Send your best environment tips to [green.living@gosford.nsw.gov.au](mailto:green.living@gosford.nsw.gov.au) or PO Box 21, GOSFORD NSW 2250.

One tip will be chosen each week to be published in Council's News Corner in the *Central Coast Express Advocate*.

Each person whose tips are published will receive a copy of 'True Green', a practical guide on living green.

- Tips must be 20 words or less.
- Please indicate if you would like your name to be published.

Your compost should be ready in about 8 weeks - it's that easy!

For a more detailed factsheet go to [www.gosford.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au) or call 4325 8175.

