

Guide notes for Community Savers projects

This guide note is to help you work out what energy and water saving actions may be suitable for your facility and where to get more help.

Please review the *Community Savers Guide for Applicants* available from environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/ccfpfp.htm for information on how to submit an application and eligibility criteria before working through this guide note.

Getting started

STEP 1: How is water and energy used at your site?

Understanding how water and energy are used at your site is the first step in working out the best project for you to undertake. Think about the items that you can see (such as lighting and taps) and those hidden from view (such as insulation). It's a good idea to walk through your facility to identify the obvious and hidden water and energy users.

List the items you think use the most water and energy in your facility and also if there are any old water or energy guzzling appliances that can be replaced with efficient models.

STEP 2: Cut your energy and water waste

There are simple things that you can do straight away without spending any money to reduce water and energy use, that will help save money off your bills. Consider turning appliances off when they are not in use, repairing leaks and sweeping instead of hosing.

What uses water and energy at the same time?

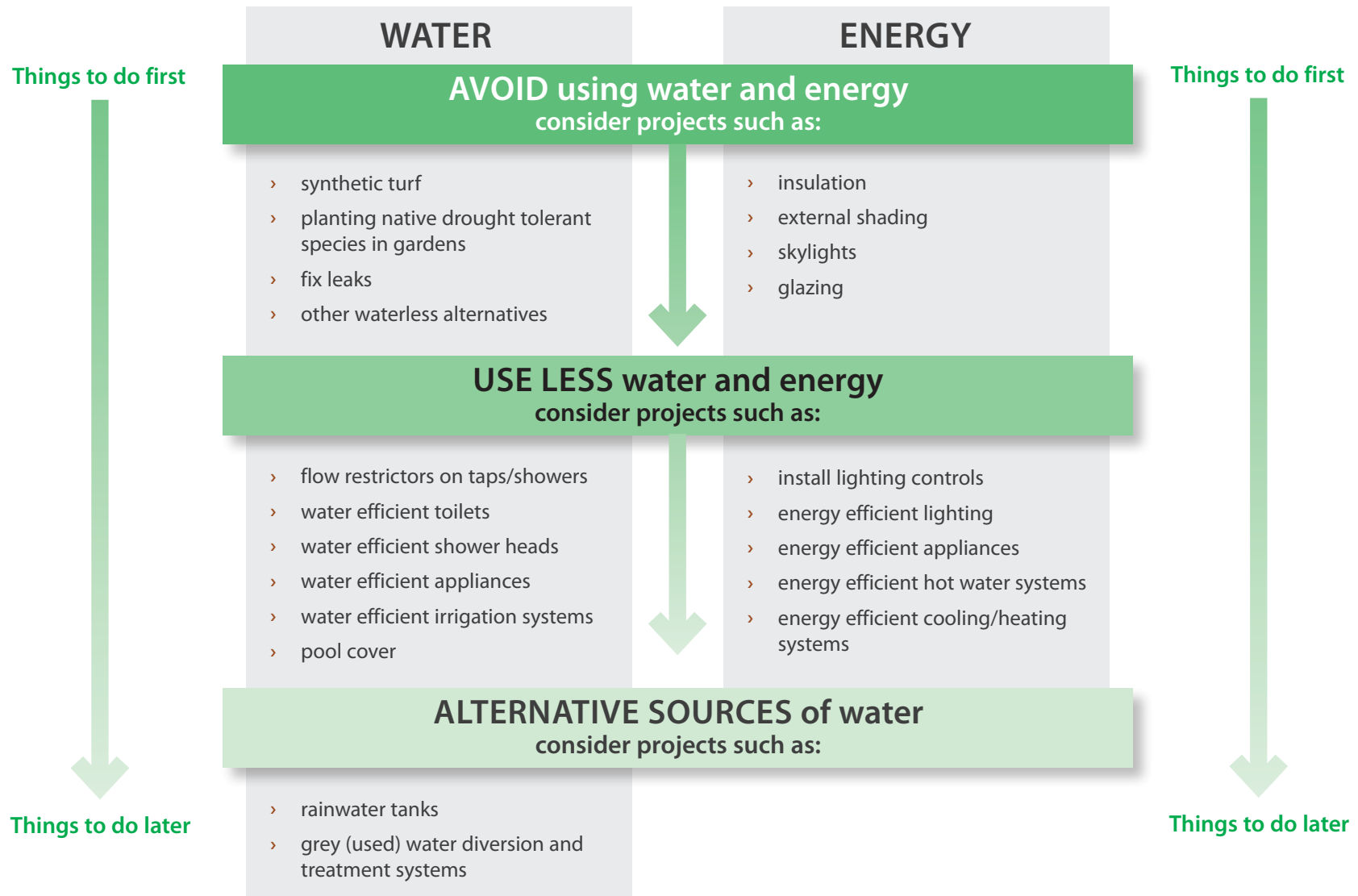
You may be using water and energy at the same time without realising. For example, rainwater harvesting will save drinkable water but your energy use can increase by connecting an electric pump to the water tank. Keep this in mind when deciding on the right projects for your site. Look at **Table 1** for more information.

STEP 3: Identify the best ways for you to save

Use **Figure 1** to help you decide which water and/or energy saving actions are right for your facility and how to make the best use of your funding. Remember to think **first** about actions that help you **avoid** the need to use energy and/or water at all, followed by actions that help you **use less** water and/or energy and lastly, the items that use **alternative sources** of water.



Figure 1: Identifying the best ways to help you save



Where can I get help?

Now that you have considered some projects that will be suitable for your site, there are people who can provide advice about your ideas to save water and/or energy at your facility. It's a good idea to contact **local supplier(s)** and arrange to meet them at your facility to discuss your ideas and get an idea of what it might cost. If you are successful in receiving funding, up to 10 per cent of the total project costs can be spent on specialist advice, design and permit costs.

The *Community Savers Guide for Applicants* Table 1 (pages 6-8) provides information on eligible water and energy saving items and funding conditions.

Tables 1 and 2 (below) provide more information on specific products that may be suitable for your site and should be read along with the *Guide for Applicants*.

Table 1: Eligible water saving projects

Where you apply these actions	Helping you decide	Who might help to do the work
Water efficient plumbing fittings/toilets		
Replace inefficient taps/showers/toilets that use drinkable water and are often used. Replace existing appliances with water efficient models such as dishwashers, washing machines, ice machines.	Reducing demand www.yourhome.gov.au > Appliance water rating: Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme www.waterrating.gov.au > Smart Approved Watermark Products www.smartwatermark.org > Choosing appliances www.yourhome.gov.au > Low impact toilets www.yourhome.gov.au >	Contact local plumbers or industry associations such as: Master Plumbers Association of NSW www.masterplumbers.com.au > Green Plumbers www.greenplumbers.com.au > The Association of Hydraulic Services Consultants of Australia Inc. www.ahsca.com.au >
Evaporation controls		
Reduce evaporation from pools, spas or sources of drinkable water exposed to the sun and/or wind.	Smart Approved Watermark Products www.smartwatermark.org >	Swimming Pool and Spa Association of NSW Limited www.spasa.org.au >

Where you apply these actions	Helping you decide	Who might help to do the work
Synthetic turf		
<p>Replace lawns and playing surfaces irrigated with drinkable water (e.g. bowling greens, golf greens, sports ovals) with synthetic turf.</p> <p>Some synthetic turf might need some watering before use.</p>		<p>Contact local sporting, irrigation and landscape consultants, or associations such as:</p> <p>Irrigation Australia www.irrigation.org.au ></p> <p>Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers www.aildm.com.au ></p>
Irrigation system upgrades		
<p>Reduce the use of drinkable water used for watering bowling greens, golf courses, ovals, lawns and gardens.</p> <p>Consider making the irrigated area more water efficient through improvements to soils, grasses and shade.</p>	<p>Outdoor water use www.yourhome.gov.au ></p>	<p>Contact local sporting, irrigation and landscape consultants, or associations such as:</p> <p>Irrigation Australia www.irrigation.org.au ></p> <p>Australian Institute of Landscape Designers and Managers www.aildm.com.au ></p>
Rainwater storage tanks		
<p>Capture rainwater to replace drinkable water used for toilets, urinals, irrigation, swimming pool top-up and backwash.</p>	<p>Rainwater harvesting www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Smart Approved Watermark Products www.smartwatermark.org ></p> <p>Rainwater tank size calculators egrants.com.au ></p> <p>Rainwater tank size calculator for Sydney www.sydneywater.com.au ></p>	<p>Contact sustainability, engineering and water efficiency consultants, or associations such as:</p> <p>Master Plumbers Association of NSW www.masterplumbers.com.au ></p> <p>Green Plumbers www.greenplumbers.com.au ></p> <p>Australian Retailers Association www.retail.org.au ></p> <p>Alternative Technology Association www.ata.org.au ></p>

Where you apply these actions	Helping you decide	Who might help to do the work
Pipes and fittings		
<p>Consider as part of other water savings measures such as rainwater tanks or irrigation system upgrades.</p> <p>Includes items such as guttering, downpipes and associated connections.</p>		<p>Contact local plumbers or industry members such as:</p> <p>Green Plumbers www.greenplumbers.com.au ></p> <p>Master Plumbers Association of NSW www.masterplumbers.com.au ></p> <p>The Association of Hydraulic Services Consultants of Australia Inc. www.ahsca.com.au ></p>
Water meters		
<p>Installation of rainwater tanks must be accompanied by two water meters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the tank outlet and ■ potable water top-up inlet. <p>This is to measure the amount of tank water used by removing the drinkable water top-up.</p>	<p>Installation specifications accompany water meters and should be followed. When installing mechanical water meters, remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ minimum pipe diameter lengths between the last pipe bend and the water meter ■ orientation, generally horizontal and face up ■ pipes should always be full of water, which may involve installation in a U bend. 	<p>Contact water meter suppliers, manufacturers or associations such as:</p> <p>Green Plumbers www.greenplumbers.com.au ></p> <p>Master Plumbers Association of NSW www.masterplumbers.com.au ></p>
Grey (used) water diversion or treatment systems		
<p>Capture grey water from the laundry, bathroom, basin and shower for a sub-surface irrigation system.</p> <p>Please note: some treatment may be required to prevent fouling and allow the water to be used elsewhere e.g. the laundry. Treatment systems may increase energy use.</p> <p>Grey water treatment systems will require stringent management and ongoing maintenance to ensure the system is working properly.</p>	<p>Understanding grey water www.sydneywater.com.au ></p> <p>Grey water re-use www.yourhome.gov.au > www.sydneywater.com.au ></p> <p>Fact sheets (designed specifically for households and may not apply to some organisations) www.waterforlife.nsw.gov.au ></p> <p>Smart Approved Watermark Products www.smartwatermark.org ></p>	<p>Contact sustainability, engineering, water efficiency and water recycling consultants or associations such as:</p> <p>Alternative Technology Association www.ata.org.au ></p>

Table 2: Eligible energy saving projects

Where you apply these actions	Helping you decide	Who might help to do the work
Passive design elements		
<p>Use natural shading to protect windows, roofs and walls from summer sun to reduce the need for air conditioning.</p> <p>Eastern and western aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ plant evergreen trees ■ install vertical louvers/awnings. <p>Northern aspect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ plant deciduous trees ■ install horizontal louvers/awnings. <p>Create a roof-top garden or cover an exposed western wall with vegetation.</p>	<p>Shading www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Passive solar heating www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Passive cooling www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Green Roofs and Walls www.yourhome.gov.au ></p>	<p>Contact local builders, carpenters, home improvement businesses, landscape gardeners, nurseries, permaculture, sustainability consultants or associations such as:</p> <p>Master Builders Association NSW www.mbansw.asn.au ></p> <p>Australian Institute of Landscapers Designers and Managers www.aildm.com.au ></p>
Glazing		
<p>Replace window glazing with energy efficient glazing to reduce air conditioning use.</p>	<p>Glazing www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Stay Warm Stay Comfortable www.agga.org.au ></p> <p>Windows Energy Rating Scheme (WERS) assists with the selection of energy efficient windows. www.wers.net ></p>	<p>Contact local builders, glaziers and sustainability consultants or associations such as:</p> <p>NSW Glass and Glazing Association www.nswgga.org.au ></p> <p>Australian Window Association www.awa.org.au ></p> <p>Window Film Association of Australia and New Zealand www.wfaanz.org.au ></p>

Where you apply these actions	Helping you decide	Who might help to do the work
Skylights		
<p>Skylights increase the amount of natural light during the day. Incorporate light switching that allows lights to be switched off in areas with skylights.</p>	<p>Skylights www.yourhome.gov.au ></p>	<p>Contact local skylighting and sustainability consultants or associations such as: Skylight Industry Association www.siai.com.au ></p>
Lighting		
<p>Save energy through a new lighting layout or design, for example a new layout may result in fewer lights while achieving the same lighting levels.</p> <p>Replace existing lights with energy efficient lights.</p> <p>Improve lighting controls to cut energy waste.</p>	<p>Lighting www.yourhome.gov.au ></p>	<p>Contact local lighting and sustainability consultants or associations such as:</p> <p>The Lighting Society www.iesanz.org ></p> <p>Lighting Council www.lightingcouncil.com.au ></p> <p>Australasian Lighting Industry Association www.alia.com.au ></p> <p>Lighting Art and Science www.lighting.rala.com.au ></p>
Insulation		
<p>Ceiling and underfloor insulation keeps heat out in summer and keeps heat in during winter. This reduces the need for air conditioning and heating.</p>	<p>About insulation www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Insulation installation www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Insulation Council of Australia and New Zealand www.icanz.org.au ></p>	<p>Contact builders, home improvement businesses and sustainability consultants.</p>

Where you apply these actions	Helping you decide	Who might help to do the work
Space Heating and Space Cooling		
<p>Replace existing reverse cycle/air conditioner with a more effective option to save energy.</p> <p>Consider heat exchange/recovery where fresh air is drawn into the building.</p> <p>For small areas, use the Fair Air Calculator to determine heating and cooling loads. www.fairair.com.au ></p> <p>For larger areas, heat load calculations are required.</p>	<p>Heating and cooling www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Appliance energy ratings www.energyrating.gov.au ></p> <p>Sustainability Victoria Hydronic Heating fact sheet (pdf) available as a download www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/resources/documents/hydronic.heating.pdf ></p> <p>Choice magazine www.choice.com.au ></p> <p>Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturers Association www.arena.com.au ></p>	<p>Contact local engineering, heating, ventilation and air conditioning consultants or associations such as:</p> <p>Air Conditioning and Contractors Association www.amcansw.com.au ></p> <p>Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air conditioning and Heating (AIRAH) www.airah.org.au ></p>
Hot Water System		
<p>Replace an electric hot water system with a more effective option to save energy.</p> <p>Electric instantaneous systems can only be installed when external access is not available for installation.</p>	<p>Hot water systems www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Clean Energy Council www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au ></p>	<p>Contact a local plumber or industry associations such as:</p> <p>Master Plumbers Association of NSW www.masterplumbers.com.au ></p> <p>Green Plumbers www.greenplumbers.com.au ></p>
Appliances		
<p>Replace energy guzzling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ appliances (e.g. clothes washers, fridges and ice machines) with energy efficient models ■ electric cook tops with gas cook tops ■ clothes dryers with electric heat pump or gas fired units. 	<p>Appliances www.yourhome.gov.au ></p> <p>Appliance energy ratings: Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) www.energyrating.gov.au ></p>	

Where you apply these actions	Helping you decide	Who might help to do the work
Refrigeration		
Replace inefficient equipment in commercial kitchens and cool rooms.	Contact DECCW on 1300 361 967	Contact local refrigeration, heating, ventilation and air conditioning consultants , or associations such as: AIRAH www.airah.org.au >

Other sources of help

Existing items that are being replaced under Community Savers with water and energy efficient models are to be decommissioned and recycled where they can be. Contact your local council for advice.

Choice Magazine is an independent source providing information and reviews on many of the eligible energy and water saving items. See **www.choice.com.au** >

The Alternative Technology Association is a not-for-profit association providing information about harvesting water and energy efficiency.
See **www.ata.org.au/sustainability** >

NSW Business Chamber (Local Chamber of Commerce) can be used as a directory to find specialist help for identifying, costing and implementing the eligible water and energy saving solutions. See **www.nswbusinesschamber.com.au** >

Published by:

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DECCW 2010/822
Published September 2010
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