



# Energy efficiency

with Paul Myors

## More than just cooking with gas



We've all heard the term "cooking with gas". Gas is popular for not just cooking, but heating and hot water as well.

For anything that requires heat in the home, gas has the advantage of fast response times, lower running costs and lower greenhouse emissions.

Why does gas have lower greenhouse emissions than coal-fired electricity?

There are two reasons. When you burn natural gas it gives off less CO<sub>2</sub> than coal for the same amount of energy released. Also the energy from gas is delivered more efficiently. Only about 30% of the energy from burning coal arrives at our homes as electricity, whereas the efficiency of gas appliances can be as high as 80%.

For gas appliances, the higher the star rating, the more efficient they are. A high star gas hot water system has around one third of the greenhouse

emissions of an electric system, or about the same as a solar hot water system (with electric boost). By switching from electric hot water to gas, you can save two-to-three tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and up to \$150 in running costs a year.

So is gas an option for other appliances around the home requiring heat?

The short answer is yes. For example gas clothes dryers are common in commercial premises, and a small number of domestic gas clothes dryers are now on the market. They're more costly to buy than electric ones, but can dry clothes more quickly, have about one third of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and half the running costs.

There are even gas air-conditioners.

■ PAUL MYORS is an energy efficiency expert from EnergyAustralia.

To talk to Paul Myors about these or other energy efficiency tips call (02) 9966 7985 or go to [www.energy.com.au/efficiency](http://www.energy.com.au/efficiency)

