



Energy efficiency

with Paul Myers

Smart way to save on your bills



Wouldn't it be great if there was a way to give you an extra reward for being energy efficient?

New smart electricity meters are doing this right now for thousands of households and businesses around the state. These smart meters measure how much electricity is used every thirty minutes. This means you can be rewarded by paying less if you run appliances outside peak periods.

If you have a smart meter, the first thing to do is check your latest electricity bill to see if you are being charged under a time based tariff.

Have a close look at when the off peak or shoulder periods are. For example if you are an EnergyAustralia customer the peak period is between 2pm and 8pm during the week only. All other times are off peak or shoulder periods.

Then check around the home and make a list of the appliances that can be switched on during non-peak times instead of peak times.

The first thing to check is the pool pump. If you switch your pool pump from the peak to the shoulder period you could save more than \$100 a year on your electricity bill. If you switch it to the off peak you can save even more – up to \$250 a year.

Turn your dishwasher on before you got to bed rather than after dinner and you'll save another \$30 a year on your bill. And use your clothes drier on the weekend or after 8pm during the week and you will save up to \$40 a year on your bill.

If you are heating or cooling your home during peak times, think about using your heater or air conditioner at a slightly lower setting, and try not to run them longer than necessary.

Contact your energy company if you want to get a smart meter installed, some companies like EnergyAustralia may even install them for free.

■ **PAUL MYORS** is an energy efficiency expert from EnergyAustralia.

To talk to Paul Myers about these or other energy efficiency tips call (02) 9966 7985 or go to www.energy.com.au/efficiency

