

ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES AND BUSINESSES

THE GREENS' PLAN FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES THAT ARE CHEAP TO HEAT AND COOL



Energy efficiency is a win-win-win. Energy efficient homes and businesses are cheaper to run, more comfortable all year round, and reduce climate pollution.

Making homes and business more energy efficient is the simplest way to save on energy bills and reduce climate damage from fossil fuels.

Unfortunately, energy efficiency is the regularly undervalued cousin to building new renewable energy projects in the fight against climate change.

The Greens have a plan to improve Victoria's existing energy efficiency upgrades program, to ensure we're making the most of easy opportunities to save on energy and reduce climate pollution.

OUR PLAN

Victoria's energy savings program started in 2009 and runs until 2030. It works by requiring big energy companies to pay for homes and businesses to be upgraded so they are more energy efficient.

The Greens' plan to strengthen Victoria's Energy Upgrade program will:

- Increase Victoria's energy efficiency savings target to 10% by 2030
- Change the rules for Victoria's energy efficiency upgrades program, to recognise insulation as an energy savings upgrade
- Promote the installation of modern air-conditioners and hot-water solar heat pumps to save energy and reduce bills
- Include previously exempt businesses in Victoria's energy efficiency upgrades program.

A 10% ENERGY SAVINGS TARGET

Under Victoria's existing energy savings program, energy companies have to pay to increase energy efficiency across the whole of the state by around 6%. Upgrades include things like more efficient lighting and heating.

The Greens would increase the target from its current level of around 6% to 10% by 2030. We would do this incrementally, to maintain momentum for improving energy efficiency in homes and businesses.

Energy companies have been making huge profits out of destructive fossil fuels and price gouging the public. Increasing the energy efficiency target is one way they will be made to act responsibly, to reduce energy consumption, bring down power bills and help to address climate change.

LABOR'S SCARED OF INSULATION - BUT THEY SHOULDN'T BE!

Insulation is one of the most effective ways to make a building more energy efficient. Yet insulation is not supported by Victoria's energy saving program. Labor has blocked it from happening with excessive red tape, because they're scared they will get criticised by the Liberals. They're scared of being accused of repeating Rudd's botched 'Pink Batts' program. But we cannot let the politics of fear get in the way of good, sensible energy efficiency policy. We can install insulation in a safe way and save money and emissions, we just need the political courage to do it.

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The Greens will update Victoria's energy savings program to include insulation. We'll make sure it's safe, but we won't avoid this important energy savings measure because we're scared. Our plan requires installers to be appropriately trained and accredited and will bring the scheme in line with international standards for installing insulation.

Insulation is a huge missed opportunity to save money and reduce climate pollution from. It's time to include insulation in Victoria's energy efficiency upgrades program.

RECOGNISE SAVINGS FROM MODERN APPLIANCES

Old air conditioners and electric hot water heaters are hugely inefficient. While updating these appliances is included in Victoria's energy saving program, the value of their energy savings is underestimated. This means the replacement of old appliances is not happening nearly fast enough.

We will ensure energy savings are properly estimated, to support the upgrade of old and polluting air conditioners and hot water heaters. We'll also make sure that low income households are the first to be given access to these upgrades.

These improvements to Victoria's energy upgrades program are on top of announcement we have already made to provide \$1000 grants to replace polluting gas heaters with new and efficient electric-solar heat pumps.

UNLOCK ENERGY SAVINGS FROM BUSINESSES

When Victoria's energy savings program first started, a number of businesses were exempt because they were part of other schemes. Those other schemes have now ended.

Our plan brings previously exempted businesses into Victoria's energy saving program, ensuring we are making the most of energy savings across the economy. The scheme is a powerful way to empower businesses to realise energy savings. Energy is a huge cost for businesses, and these upgrades will reduce their power bills into the future.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST

The Greens' plan to strengthen Victoria's energy savings program is cost neutral. Modification of how the scheme operates is an existing activity within the Victorian Government so would not involve any additional cost.

Cost associated with increasing Victoria's energy efficiency target to 10% by 2030 are born by profitable energy companies.

Our commitment to grants to replace old polluting gas heaters is capped at \$22 million over the forward estimates.