

# Towards 0 ZERO EMISSIONS NOOSA



Solar panels at Noosa Meat Centre.

Picture: SUPPLIED

## Cool savings: Summer tips

### By Zero Emissions Noosa

How do you cool your home, save money and reduce your emissions? Follow these 10 steps from the Australian Energy Foundation to keep your house cool, reduce your energy bill and help save the planet by reducing emissions.

- When using your air conditioner, set your temperature wisely by setting your thermostat to cool at 23-26 degrees in summer. Every degree higher can reduce your running costs by 10 percent.
- Use fans only for some welcome cooling air, or use them with your air conditioner to help circulate the conditioned air. Fans cost only \$5-\$20 per season to run, so using them as much as possible helps lower your energy bill.
- Install your outdoor air conditioner unit in a shady place, or protect it from direct sun-

light with an awning. This helps it run more efficiently and protects it from overheating.

- Do regular maintenance using the maintenance schedule contained in your air conditioner's manual. This prevents many energy-sapping or expensive-to-fix issues before they begin.
- Clean the filter regularly. Clogged filters make your air conditioner work much harder to produce the same effect. For optimum energy use, clean or replace them every 1-2 months. This can lower your air conditioner's energy use and costs by 5-15 percent.
- Only cool occupied areas. Use room sensors (available with most current air conditioners) to automatically lower conditioning in unoccupied rooms or program your air conditioner to only cool often-used areas.
- If your air conditioner doesn't have smart controls, set a timer to turn off your aircon after a period of time, or turn it off when you

leave the area.

- Keep doors and windows closed and use thick curtains in sun-exposed rooms to keep temperatures low.
- In an open plan home, use a door curtain in hallways to keep in cool air. If you live in a climate where nights are cool, open your windows at night to take advantage of cooler evening air. All of the above tips are convenient and require little commitment or up-front cost. However, if you're looking for significant (40 percent or more) savings on your electricity bill, take the steps below and save thousands in the long run.
- Insulate your house. This is the most cost-effective way to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of your home. A fully insulated home compared to a non-insulated home can reduce the cost of cooling a home by 40 to 50 percent.
- Buy an energy-efficient split-system air con-

ditioner. If you have a ducted air conditioner system, you're spending \$100-\$300 more per season than you need to. Energy-efficient split-system air conditioners are cheaper to buy and install, and also cheaper to run at only \$20-\$75 per year.

- If your split system aircon is over 10 years old, there's also a good chance you'll save with a new energy-efficient split system air conditioner.
- Go Solar. This is the biggest investment, but it also gives the biggest savings by far. Solar systems save their owners 30-60 percent on their energy bills, and pay for themselves in 3-7 years.

Happy summer savings!

For more information go to <https://www.zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au/> and the Australian Energy Foundation <https://www.aef.com.au/news/energy-efficiency>

### Case study: Noosa Meat Centre

Steve Young highly recommends investing in solar and an energy management solution to provide energy security for your business and to also reduce your electricity costs.

Steve and Stacey Young, owners of Noosa Meat Centre, found that their business operations were regularly tripping the mains power supply, especially when the smoker ovens were fired up. The business has three smoker ovens, several cold rooms, freezers, window display units and freezer pack cabinets all requiring power.

The issue of losing power posed a major risk to their business interrupting retail service to the public and shutting down all

equipment. According to Steve, "By installing solar and an energy management solution, we have resolved the power supply issue by reducing demand on the power grid, while also avoiding the cost of upgrading the Energex transformer in the area. The installation of the solar system has also resulted in a reduction in electricity costs."

Steve & Stacey Young's award-winning Noosa Meat Centre has been located on Eumundi-Noosa Road in Noosaville since 2014, and operates 5.5 days per week.

#### BUSINESS TYPE

Food / Retail

#### LOCATION

171 Eumundi Noosa Road, Noosaville

#### DATE INSTALLED

December 2018

#### SIZE

71 kW

#### TECHNICAL

Zeus Apollo 275W solar panels

Zeus Apollo inverter

#### ELECTRICITY COST BEFORE SOLAR

\$6,400 per month

#### ESTIMATED PAYBACK PERIOD

4.5 years

#### EMISSIONS REDUCTION

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction per year: 86 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e

