

## **GUIDE TO RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

### **ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

The best place for a homeowner to start is to find out how much electricity they are using and where. Once the customer has an idea of where they are using their electricity they can begin to make changes which can be as simple as standby power controllers.

### **LIGHTING**

Between 10-15% of average homes electricity is used for is lighting. With so many homes having halogen down lights, the first and most obvious choice is to change these to more efficient lamps. While LED lamps continues to be a more feasible alternative, CFL and more efficient halogen lamps are still a viable option.

Energy savings on lighting of between 30-50% can be made with the installation of the correct lighting and lighting controls. Dimmers don't just set the mood of a room they also help save the customer money as well. Devices such as sunset switches, movement sensors and timers all have a place in managing a home's lighting.

### **HEATING AND COOLING**

Electricity prices continue to rise and consumers are looking for alternatives to turning on their air conditioner. Ceiling fans provide a cool fresh breeze while freshening the air at a fraction of the price of air conditioners. Ceiling fans also assist in winter by pushing warm air down in turn improving the effectiveness of a home's heating system.

Heating and cooling a home can be quite expensive so it seems a waste when up to 15% of heating and cooling is lost via air leaks. Many new exhaust fans are fitted with backdraft shutters that will close automatically when the exhaust fan is not in use, meaning air which has been heated or cooled is prevented from escaping.

### **SWIMMING POOLS**

A typical family swimming pool can cost approximately \$700 a year to run. This can be substantially reduced by installing a timer which runs the pool's pump making the most of off-peak electricity prices. Electricians can also advise on the most appropriate pump size for the family pool.

### **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Residential solar PV systems do not necessarily mean a homeowner will be more energy efficient. Small-scale generation systems such as solar PV, in combination with energy efficient measures as previous mentioned will mean the consumer will save hundreds of dollars a year off their electricity bill in the short term and even more in the long term as electricity prices continue to rise.