

Environmental impact of key actions

Air-conditioning

- The air-conditioner is a major contributor to the amount of electricity consumed in the typical household. Using the air-conditioner in energy efficient ways can reduce its impact on the environment and your electricity bill.
 - The air-conditioner takes up 30 percent of the typical household electricity bill.
 - Air-conditioning should be set at 25 degrees Celsius, and not below 24 degrees Celsius.
 - When set to this optimal temperature, the air-conditioner will not need to use up so much energy to cool the environment around you. This in turn results in less fossil fuels burnt to power the airconditioner and less heat released into the atmosphere, hence reducing the impact on the environment.
 - Every one degree increase in the air-conditioner temperature helps you save a minimum of S\$25 annually. We can save a minimum of \$150 million annually in the total electricity bill for Singapore if all Singaporeans take this up.
- Please refer to the NEA website at www.nea.gov.sg

LED lights

- LED lights offer greater energy savings than traditional incandescent lights. Most of the energy LED lights use goes into making light instead of heat. Most incandescent lights, for example, produce anywhere from 5-20 lumens (a measure of brightness) per watt, whereas compact fluorescent bulbs put out about 40-70 lumens. By comparison, LEDs range from 20 lumens up to 100 lumens.
- Please refer to <http://www.ledlightingexplained.com/led-lighting-myths/>

Plastic bags

- 3 billion plastic bags were used in Singapore in 2011, needing 37 million kilogrammes of crude oil and 12 million kilogrammes of natural gas to make.
- Each kg of plastic bags requires 1.2 kilogrammes of crude oil, according to a study done by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research.
- Globally, each year, more than one trillion plastic bags are used around the world, less than two percent of which are recycled. The rest end up in landfills – where they can take up to 1,000 years to break down – or as litter.
- Please refer to <http://www.zerowastesg.com/2012/04/27/plastic-bag-production-an-environmental-worry-news/>

Shorter showers

- Nearly 50 percent of the water used in the homes in Singapore goes to showers and kitchen sink washing. Showers generally take up 29 percent of an average family's monthly water consumption.
- People can save nine litres of water per minute in the shower by taking shorter showers.
- Please refer to <http://www.pub.gov.sg/conserve/households/wacprogramme/pages/default.aspx>