

Energy Saver Study

Project Outcomes



The SECCCA Energy Saver Study was established to engage and support 320 households in Melbourne's south-east to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce energy costs, while possibly increasing the comfort and health of the homes.



Results

The combination of home retrofit and behaviour change interventions provided to low income homes achieved statistically significant energy efficiency outcomes (compared to control group) including averages of:

- 10-11% reductions in total energy use
- 13-18% less gas use and similarly cheaper bills
- 14-18% lower greenhouse emissions due to gas use
- living room temperatures that were 1.6°C warmer in winter.

LED light upgrades resulted in 22-36% reductions in lighting electricity use, 22% cheaper bills and lower greenhouse emissions.

'Retrofit only' interventions achieved:

- 7% reduction in total energy use (statistically significant)
- increased indoor temperatures that were 1-1.9°C warmer in winter.

Some 'retrofit only' householders began to improve/increase their energy efficiency actions/practices in their home after they received their retrofits, even though they were not provided with behaviour change support.

Households receiving 'behaviour change only' interventions showed an increase in their average number of energy efficiency actions from 16 to 19 actions during the project.

Householders indicated that the home retrofit interventions met their expectations and improved their comfort.

The Energy Saver Study was strongly endorsed with over 95% of householders indicating they would recommend a similar program to others if it was available in the future because, from their point of view:

- it helped lower energy bills
- householders enjoyed the visits by project staff
- it helps keep people in their homes
- they trust the home care service
- it was educational.