

Sustainability in the Shire of Capel

Council's vision for the Shire is "a community of diverse lifestyle experiences accommodating progressive growth, sharing in prosperity and valuing the unique environment". In keeping with this vision Council provides direction and resources to improve the sustainability of the Shire's operations. Below are some examples of what we're doing to reduce our environmental impacts.



Council also encourages residents to do their bit for the environment and on the following page are some ideas about how you can save energy and water and reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions in your home. For more information see www.capel.wa.gov.au/live/sustainability.

Solar power: We've installed 30kW of PV across three of our main buildings. These PV systems meet about 10% of the Shire's overall electricity requirements (excluding street lighting).



LED lighting: We replaced most of the fluorescent tubes in our office with LED lights. They use about half as much energy and are expected to last twice as long.



Organics bin: We've introduced the 3rd bin for organics along with other Councils in the region. Household recycling rates have increased to nearly 50% and composting the green waste instead of putting it in landfill will reduce greenhouse emissions by about 2,500 tonnes CO₂ a year.



Water: We've installed rain water tanks at a number of our buildings along with waterless urinals, timer taps and low flush toilets. We're also careful in managing the amount of water we use to irrigate our parks and gardens.



SAVE THE PLANET.....from the comfort of your own home

Use energy efficient compact fluorescent CFL or LED lights instead of halogen ones. Save up to \$15 per year per light.

When you need a new hot water system, install a gas boosted solar (best), electric boosted solar, electric heat pump or high efficiency gas system (good).

A 1.5 - 2kW solar power system will meet about 30% of the electricity use of the average home.

Turn off lights, TVs, computers and other appliances when you're not using them.

Avoid the second fridge or freezer - it could be costing you up to \$400 a year to run. One large high efficiency fridge / freezer will use much less energy than two smaller ones.

Take shorter showers and make sure you have a water efficient shower head. Cutting your shower time by 2 minutes will save about 20 litres every shower.

A 2000L rainwater tank plumbed into your toilet and washing machine could save up to 50000 litres each year.

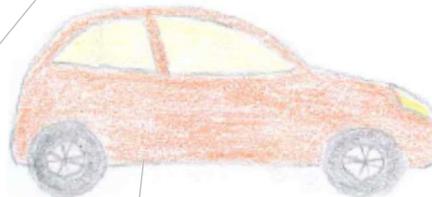
Instead of putting your waste in the rubbish bin so it ends up in landfill:

- Recycle 1kg of food or garden waste, paper or cardboard and save 1.5 - 2.5kg CO₂
- Recycle steel and aluminium cans and save 75 - 95% of the energy needed to make new ones
- Recycle plastic containers to make a range of new products, from floor covers to fence posts!



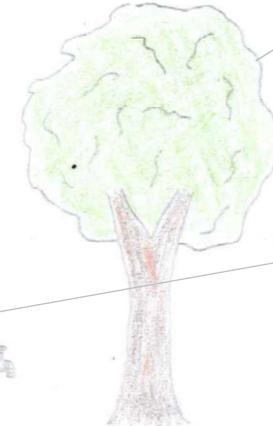
Buy appliances with high energy and water star ratings:

- A 4 star 520L fridge will use nearly half as much energy as a 2 star one and cost about \$700 less to run over 10 years
- A 4.5 star washing machine will use about 20L less water every wash compared to a 3 star one.



Buy a fuel efficient car – whether it's new or used, you could save up to \$1000 in fuel and 1.5 tonnes of CO₂ each year for a similar size and type of car. If you don't need to travel far, walk or ride your bike instead of taking the car.

If one of your electronic appliances stops working, see if you can get it repaired instead of throwing it out. For example, an LCD TV can use as much energy to manufacture as it uses over 5000 hours of operation.



Plant a tree. Trees can help keep your home and garden cool in summer, provide a habitat for local birds and absorb 250kg of CO₂ over their lifetime.

Reduce the water budget setting or run times on your irrigation controller to around 60% in April and October and 40% in May and September. During periods of cooler weather and less sunshine your plants don't need as much water.

Use local native and other water wise plants – they require much less water and fertiliser compared to most exotic plants.

Apply soil wetter to help water spread evenly through the soil to plant roots and use coarse mulch to reduce water loss from soil during hot weather.



Building up your soil with compost, manure, clay (for sandy soils) and other soil improvers will enhance its ability to retain moisture and nutrients and help your plants to survive.



31 Forrest Road, Capel
(08) 9727 0222
www.capel.wa.gov.au
info@capel.wa.gov.au