

Results from the Sustainable Habits Survey

Introduction

We had 641 people tell us about the sustainable habits they have been undertaking and the sorts of barriers they are facing which prevent them from doing others.

It is inspiring to see the many fantastic sustainable actions being undertaken by our community, and important to hear about what is holding our community back from certain actions. The results from this survey will be used, along with a range of other data sources, to help us to shape initiatives to help support our community to live more sustainably. Thank you to everyone who participated in the survey.

Purchasing

- 86% of respondents often or always use a refillable water bottle or coffee cup.
- 67% of respondents often or always choose products in recycled packaging.
- Only 15% of respondents often or always borrow or rent items instead of buying new.

Waste

- 88% of residents always separate out food waste for FOGO or home compost.
- 71% of respondents often or always take soft plastics to a drop off point for recycling when these are available.

Water

- 81% of respondents always or often select a shorter cycle on the dishwasher or washing machine or only use these for a full load.
- Only 56% of respondents are keeping their showers to 4 minutes or less.

Transport

- 61% of respondents often or always walk or cycle for short trips instead of taking the car.
- 27% of respondents drive fuel efficient, hybrid or electric vehicles and 50% plan to choose fuel efficient, hybrid or electric vehicles within the next 12 months.
- Only 31% of respondents often or always take public transport instead of the car.

Energy

- Only 35% of respondents often or always turn appliances off at the wall.
- 69% of respondents always or often set their home heating to 20 degrees or lower in winter, and 54% of residents always or often set their home cooling to 25 degrees or higher in summer.
- 39% of respondents are purchasing renewable energy from their electricity provider. However, 18% of those who are not indicated the reason for this was that they had solar panels. The main barriers reported by respondents were not having enough information (31%) and cost (27%).

You can find detailed information about the benefits of renewable energy and how to purchase it on the [GreenPower website](#) (which is program managed by the NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change).

Gas

- 32% of respondents said they have already replaced or plan to replace gas cooking with electric (induction) cooking. Of those who haven't done this or don't plan to, the main reason given was that their current cooktop did not need replacing (49%). The main barriers reported by respondents were cost (23%), preferring to cook with gas (21%), and renting (15%).
- 29% of respondents said they have already replaced or plan to replace gas heating with reverse-cycle air conditioning, however 29% of people who haven't done this or don't plan to indicated that this was because their home already had reverse-cycle air conditioning.

We will soon be releasing a Getting off Gas guide, to help our community take steps towards reducing their emissions through electrification. Stay tuned!

Solar

- 48% of respondents have either installed or plan to install solar panels at their home. The main barriers reported by respondents were cost (36%), having an unsuitable roof (22%), and renting (21%).
- 28% of respondents have either installed or plan to install a solar hot water or heat pump system. Of those who haven't done this or don't plan to, the main reason given was that their current system did not need replacing (47%). The main barriers reported by respondents were cost (28%), renting (17%), and not having enough information (15%).

If cost is a barrier, the Victorian Government has a number of subsidies and grants available for households and landlords. These are various Victorian State Government supported incentives, these are for guidance only, benefit for individual circumstances will vary.

- The Solar Panel (PV) Rebate is available for up to \$1,400 and the option of an interest-free loan for eligible Victorian households. Find out more on the Solar Panel (PV) Rebate page of the Solar Victoria website.
- The Solar for Rentals rebate is available for up to \$1,400 and the option of an interest-free loan for eligible Victorian rental properties. Find out more on the Solar rebates for rental properties page of the Solar Victoria website.
- The Hot Water Rebate is available for up to \$1,000 is on eligible heat pump and hot water systems for eligible Victorian households. Find out more on the Hot water rebate page of the Solar Victoria website.