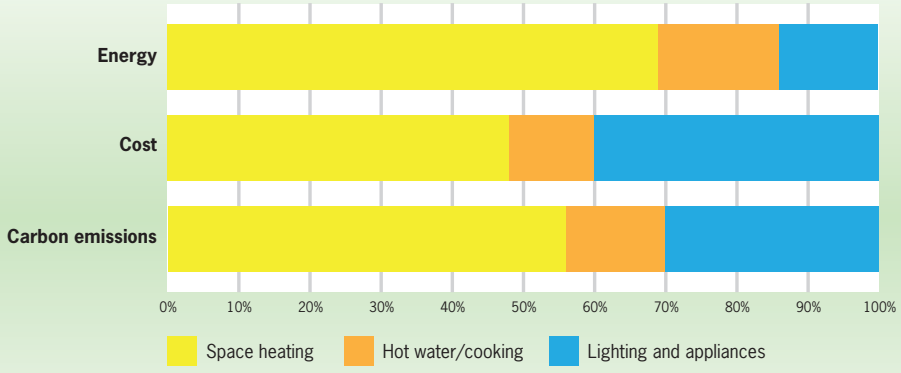
warm homes

Where does the energy go?

- This chart shows average energy use – households vary enormously. You may be using more for heating, more for hot water or more for lighting and appliances. It depends on what you do as well as the efficiency of your house
- For most households, electric lighting and appliances are a large part of the energy bill, though not quite as much as space heating, both in terms of cost and in carbon emissions.
- The cost and carbon emissions bars are similar, which means it matters little whether you want to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions, or your bills – you still need to look at both heating and electricity use



Note: Price data is from DECC (Energy Price Statistics), annual averages for 2011 (with standing charges rolled in) and carbon emissions are from SAP 2009 version 9.90 (published in 2010).

The carbon emissions and cost calculations assume that the home has a gas boiler for heating and hot water.

What you can do

There are lots of ways you can reduce energy use, from big building projects down to everyday activities. Here are just a few to start you off.

Space heating

- ✔ Insulate everywhere – even the floor if you can
- ✔ Turn down radiators in rarely used rooms and keep the door closed
- ✔ Close curtains at dusk, and don't let them hang in front of radiators

Hot water

- ✔ If you have a hot water tank make sure it has plenty of insulation
- ✔ If your shower uses more than 8 litres/minute – get a low flow shower head
- ✔ For washing up, don't run the hot tap all the time for rinsing – fill a bowl instead

Lighting and appliances

- ✔ Fit low energy bulbs for lighting especially where they get heavy use
- ✔ When you buy new electrical appliances, make sure they are efficient and not bigger than you need
- ✔ Run the washing machine at 40°C or even 30°C (but you need to run a hot wash every few months to clean the machine)
- ✔ Switch things off when they aren't needed

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