

The Energy Rating Labelling Scheme

The Energy Rating Labelling Scheme is a mandatory scheme for a range of appliances, these currently include:

- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Clothes Washers
- Clothes Dryers
- Dishwashers
- Air Conditioners
- Televisions.

When offered for sale, these appliances must display a label that shows the star rating and other useful information about energy consumption. The label gives the appliances a star rating between one and ten stars. The greater the number of stars the higher the efficiency. It enables consumers to compare the energy efficiency of domestic appliances on a fair and equitable basis. It also provides incentive for manufacturers to improve the energy performance of appliances.

The Energy Rating Label has two main features that provide consumers with the following information:

- The star rating gives a comparative assessment of the model's energy efficiency.
- The comparative energy consumption (usually kilowatt hours/year) provides an estimate of the annual energy consumption of the appliance based on the tested energy consumption and information about the typical use of the appliance in the home. Air Conditioners show the power consumption of the appliance (kW or kWh/hour).

The Star Rating of an appliance is determined from the energy consumption and size of the product. These values are measured under Australian Standards which define test procedures for measuring energy consumption and minimum energy performance criteria. Appliances must meet these criteria before they can be granted an Energy Rating Label.

The Energy Rating Label was first introduced in 1986 in NSW and Victoria. It is now mandatory in all Australian states and territories and New Zealand for refrigerators, freezer, clothes washers, clothes dryers, dishwashers and air-conditioners (single phase only) to carry the label when they are offered for sale. Australia also applies a mandatory label to televisions. A mandatory label is proposed for adoption in New Zealand on 1 October 2012. Three phase air conditioners and swimming pool pumps may carry an energy rating label if the supplier chooses to apply for one.

Household appliances are a major source of electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 40% of residential greenhouse gas emissions in Australia and 41% of household electricity consumption in New Zealand.

While many of the appliances currently on the market are quite efficient, there are also many that could be substantially improved. Energy rating labelling is a program which aims to create market demand for efficient products through the provision of clear and objective information on energy efficiency to consumers.

The aim of the energy rating labelling program is to:

- Encourage consumers to select the appliance that uses the least energy and which meets their energy service needs.

Reading: CHCECE012 Support children to connect with their world.

- Enable consumers to understand the approximate running costs of an appliance before buying and to minimise the total life cycle cost of the appliance where possible.
- Provide incentives for manufacturers and importers to improve the energy efficiency of the products they supply to the market.

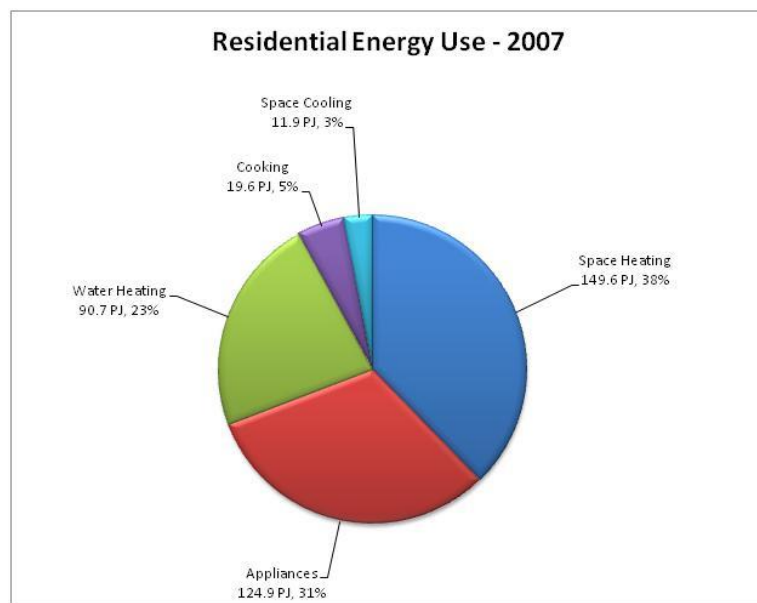
Why energy rating labelling?

Improving product energy efficiency has significant environmental and economic benefits and energy rating labelling is one of the mechanisms that can help achieve this. Because labelling gives product energy performance information at point-of-sale, it can increase consumer awareness and demand for energy efficient appliances, and also encourage manufacturers to respond to that market demand.

Energy rating labels give consumers the objective information they need to factor energy efficiency into their product purchasing decisions – information that is often not declared voluntarily by manufacturers. Manufacturers of products covered by the labelling programme are required to supply and declare energy data as specified under the relevant Australia/New Zealand Standard, which then appears on the product's label.

Energy rating labelling often works hand-in-hand with a mechanism called Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS). MEPS establish standards for energy performance that products must meet or exceed before they can be sold to consumers. It improves the average efficiency of products available on the market and raises the performance of efficient products. It also ensures consumers have access to a more range of products, creating significant energy and greenhouse gas savings at a household and national level.

The figure opposite provides a breakdown of energy use in Australia's residential sector.



the least
efficient