



Saving energy

Energy sources

To run our appliances, natural energy sources are converted into other forms that are easier to use, called secondary energy.

The natural energy sources used differ from country to country - it mostly depends on what's available. In Australia, more than 90% of our electricity comes from coal and the rest comes from water.

Natural energy sources can be put into two categories: renewable and non-renewable.

Renewable energy sources are never-ending and can be easily replaced. Some examples are: sunlight, wind, water and waves.

Non-renewable energy sources are those that are used faster than they can be replaced. Examples include: coal, natural gas and petroleum - these take thousands of years to create.

Q: What do the following have in common?
Television, hair dryer, air conditioner,
mobile phone chargers.

A: They're all powered by energy!

The most common example of secondary energy is electricity, which is made using fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas and oil.

Power plants burn fossil fuels to create steam, which drives large machines called turbines to create electricity. The electricity then travels across wires to houses and powers our appliances including heating, cooling, lighting, ovens and electric hot-water systems.

Some fossil fuels, such as coal produce greenhouse gases when they are burnt, and are non-renewable, so it is becoming more and more important for households to try and cut down on energy use.

This is not only good for the environment but your household will also save money on electricity bills - a win for everyone!



Energy saving tips and hints

- Talk to your parents about fitting energy-saving light globes
- In the summer, close blinds or curtains to block heat from the sun, but in winter, open the curtains to let the warm sun in
- Make sure taps are turned off after you finish using them
- Have a shower instead of a bath
- Don't leave the tap running when you brush your teeth
- Turn off appliances when they are not in use or not needed
- Turn off the light if it doesn't need to be on
- Make sure you turn your heater off before going to bed

Source: Energy Australia: www.energy.com.au, Origin Energy: www.originenergy.com.au



Spotlight: ATMs and PINs

ATM is short for Automatic Teller Machine. It's a machine which lets people withdraw money and see how much they have in their account.

ATMs are handy as not everyone can get to our office, and sometimes, people want to withdraw money after our office is closed.

An ATM can't be used without a PIN, which is short for Personal Identification Number. This is a password made up of numbers. The PIN is used to make sure an account is only accessed by the owner. If you already have a Redicard, it's important that you do not tell anyone your PIN and keep it a secret.

Rewarding you



This is the last newsletter you'll be receiving from us before Christmas, the time of year where your piggy bank is raided as you buy presents and need spending money for the holidays.

Being creative with presents can help you save money. Try to recycle wrapping paper and Christmas cards from previous years or even make your own.

For some, this time of the year may also mean lots of Christmas money! Don't forget to put it into your Under 18 Savings Account to be rewarded with gifts. You receive gifts when you reach savings targets of \$100, \$300, \$600 and \$1,000.

Funny reads



The Detachable Boy | Author: Scot Gardner | Publisher: Allen & Unwin

John Johnson often falls apart - a sneeze can blast his head off and his hands can run about by themselves. He is used to pulling himself together and can do it in the time it takes to make a Vegemite sandwich. The real test however, comes when he has to pack himself into a suitcase bound for the USA to rescue his kidnapped best friend.

The Aliens Handbook | Author: Herbie Brennan | Publisher: Allen & Unwin

In this funny, fact-packed guide you'll find out who aliens are, where to find them, how to spot them and what to do if you're abducted. It also gives tips about making your own equipment to pick up alien signals. A must-have for anyone interested in aliens!

Fun facts

- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated
- The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screched"
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt"
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes
- It is impossible to lick your elbow

EarthOne find-a-word

Account
ATM
Cents
Credit
Deposit
Earth
One
PIN
Reward
Union

I	T	F	A	W	R	C	C	A
D	M	P	S	S	K	I	Z	C
E	C	R	E	D	I	T	J	C
P	E	X	A	T	M	R	D	O
O	N	D	R	U	T	C	U	U
S	T	L	T	O	K	L	N	N
I	S	M	H	M	U	R	I	T
T	R	E	W	A	R	D	O	G
P	I	N	A	F	S	O	N	E