



Improving the energy and emissions performance of buildings

The Australian Government is delivering an additional \$10.5 million in 2019–20 to improve the energy efficiency of Australian buildings.

This includes \$3.4 million to improve the energy efficiency of both new and existing homes, and \$7.1 million to improve the energy efficiency of commercial buildings.

Building energy efficiency provides one of the least cost abatement options to support Australia's emissions reduction efforts, delivering up to 45 million tonnes in emissions reductions by 2030.

Delivering low energy homes

Improving the energy efficiency of Australian homes can lower energy bills for people living in a new detached home on average by \$382 per year, and \$43 per year for people living in new apartments.

Australian households are responsible for around 24 per cent of Australia's overall electricity use and 12 per cent of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions.

New funding will support the implementation of the COAG Energy Council's *Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings*, which is a roadmap to deliver a range of energy efficient improvements for both new and existing buildings.

The Australian Government will develop best practice information, training and tools that help the transition to low energy homes, including through updates to the Your Home resource (yourhome.gov.au) and the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (nathers.gov.au).

Delivering low energy commercial buildings

The commercial building sector is responsible for around 25 per cent of Australia's overall electricity use and 10 per cent of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions.

New funding will include the expansion of the National Australian Built Environment Energy Ratings System (NABERS) nabers.gov.au and consider the expansion of the Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) program cbd.gov.au following the current review of the program.

The CBD program requires owners to advertise the NABERS office energy rating of an office building greater than 1000 square metres when it is offered for lease or sale.

Funding will support NABERS to expand its voluntary energy rating tools to include more building types, such as schools, retail stores and industrial buildings.



The new NABERS online tool will reduce the cost of ratings through streamlining processes and automatic energy data collection.

Disclosing the energy efficiency of a building provides potential owners or tenants with consistent and meaningful information about a building's performance, making it easier for them to make an informed decision.

The CBD program was reviewed in 2015 and found to be effective at motivating owners of poorly performing office buildings to improve the energy efficiency of those buildings, delivering \$44 million in net benefits in its first four years.

The current review is considering whether to expand mandatory disclosure of energy performance to other high energy using classes of commercial building, such as hotels, data centres, office tenancies and shopping centres.

The Australian Government will also develop new information, online tools and case studies for industry on how to upgrade building performance, saving owners and tenants energy and reducing their energy bills.

Funding will be provided to develop a stock model and energy use baseline study for non-residential buildings in Australia to chart current and future energy use patterns.

Consulting with industry

The Australian Government will continue to consult extensively with industry, consumer groups and state and territory governments on the development of these important initiatives.

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