



Architects Advisory Service

Your Home – Sustainable Home Improvements

Global warming, climate-change and sustainability are words that we hear regularly these days, but what do they all mean for home owners or home-buyers?

A Cost Guide to budget for Sustainable Home Improvements

Archicentre Australia has prepared the following guide to help people understand and budget for sustainable home improvements. The Guide can be used as a short-term 'shopping list' for example, or to plan longer-term improvements. Perhaps both!

These estimates are based on the installed cost of a variety of common household upgrades. They range from improvements to a typical two bedroom unit up to more substantial improvements to a four bedroom family home. The message is simple, make improvements now and reap the savings in the long term.

The top 10 tips to Home Water Saving Improvements

1. Rainwater Tank (approx. \$2,500- \$4,000)
2. Downpipe Diverters (approx. \$300 - \$500)
3. Grey Water Diversion System (approx. \$2,000 - \$3,000)
4. AAA rated Shower Head/s (approx. \$200 - \$300)
5. Dual Flush Toilet Cistern/s (approx. \$500 - \$800)
6. Flow Reducer on Meter (approx. \$300 - \$400)
7. Low-Flow Tap/s (approx. \$600 - \$800)
8. Fix Leading Fixtures (approx. \$200 - \$300)

9. Water-Efficient Appliances (approx. \$1,000 - \$2,000)
10. Drip Watering System (approx. \$300 - \$500)

The top 10 Energy Saving Improvements

1. Door & Window Seals (approx. \$200 - \$300)
2. Ceiling Insulation (approx. \$1,200 - \$1,800)
3. Evaporative Cooling System (approx. \$2,000 - \$3,000)
4. External Blinds (approx. \$600 - \$1,200)
5. Ceiling Fan/s (approx. \$400 - \$600)
6. Energy-efficient Appliances (approx. \$800 - \$1,200)
7. Solar-Boosted Hot Water (approx. \$4,000 - \$5,000)
8. Install Damped Exhaust Fan (approx. \$300 - \$500)
9. Install Down-Light Guards (approx. \$300 - \$500)
10. Replace Light Globes (approx. \$100 - \$200)

Finally, remember that plumbing and electrical work must be done by a licensed contractor and that rebates are available on many sustainable home improvements. Small changes can make a big difference, so start making your home more sustainable today... and enjoy the cost savings and increase in living quality!

If you would like to talk to an Archicentre Australia architect – a building expert - about a particular matter, please call Archicentre Australia on 1300 13 45 13 or go to www.archicentreaustralia.com.au