



Reducing
Energy
Emissions

DIY ACTIONS

How we power our homes and businesses

1. Make your home more comfortable

Keep your home comfortable year-round by sealing up gaps around windows and doors, improving insulation, using curtains, blinds and shading, and closing doors to heat or cool smaller spaces. Consider double glazing select windows.

TIP: Borrow a Smartphone Thermal Camera from the library to pinpoint areas of heat/loss gain in your home.

2. Get to know your energy use

Understand how and when you use energy at home. Review your energy bills, learn which appliances use the most electricity, shift energy use to the best time of day, and make small changes to use less (i.e. turn things off, upgrade to more efficient appliances over time).

TIP: Borrow a Home Energy Toolkit from the library and complete a DIY home energy audit.

3. Go electric over time

Make a plan to replace gas appliances with efficient electric alternatives when they reach the end of their life. Electric heating and cooling, induction cooktops and heat pump hot water systems can reduce energy costs and make your home healthier.

4. Install solar and / or battery

Explore options to generate and store your own renewable energy. Solar panels and batteries can help reduce energy bills, increase energy independence and lower household emissions.

5. Take action if you're renting

Focus on improvements that can move with you, such as draught stoppers, insulating curtains, blinds, portable shading and efficient appliances. You can also start a conversation with your landlord about efficient electric heating and cooling, replacing appliances at the end of life with more efficient electric options, improved insulation or access to solar.

TIP: Consider trying a plug in induction cooktop to reduce gas use.

6. Improve your business energy use

Review how your business uses energy and identify opportunities to improve efficiency. Energy audits, efficient equipment, electrification and solar can help reduce operating costs and emissions.

7. Inspire someone else

Talk to friends, family, neighbours or colleagues about the changes you've made to improve comfort, reduce bills or use cleaner energy. Sharing real experiences can help make energy choices feel simpler and more achievable.

8. Speak up for a fair energy future

Support access to affordable, efficient and renewable energy for everyone. Connect with local groups, share your views with decision-makers and advocate for policies that help households and businesses reduce emissions and energy costs.



**Reducing
Transport
Emissions**

DIY ACTIONS

How we move around

1. Make quick swaps

Replace one short car trip each week with a walk or bike ride. For longer regular journeys, explore whether public transport could work for part or all of your trip.

2. Get your bike going

Give your bike a tune up, as a well-maintained bike is safer, easier and more enjoyable to ride. Do it yourself, book it in for a service, or visit the Adelaide Bike Kitchen.

3. Walk or ride with others

Travel with friends, neighbours or colleagues to build confidence or reduce costs. Discover new cycling routes, join a community ride with UnleyBUG, or share trips by carpooling.

4. Choose an e-bike

Consider a pedal assist e-bike for everyday travel. E-bikes make it easier to cover longer distances, tackle hills and carry groceries, helping you leave the car home more often.

5. Buying less, support local

Buy only what you need and choose local business where you can. This helps reduce consumption, supports the local economy, reduces the distance goods travel, and makes it easier to walk or ride to the shops.

6. Make your next car electric

When it's time to replace your car, consider an electric vehicle. EVs are typically cheaper to run and maintain, offer a quieter driving experience, and with more models now available, there are options to suit a wide range of needs and budgets.

7. Share your transport wins

Help someone else to take their first step towards more sustainable travel by talking to friends, family, neighbours or colleagues about changes that have worked for you.

8. Speak up for better transport

Advocate for the transport options you want to see in your community. Contact your local MP to support improved public transport or active transport infrastructure.



Reducing
Waste
Emissions

DIY ACTIONS

What we buy and how we dispose of things

1. Buy better

Choose quality over quantity, buy second-hand, support local businesses, and borrow and share items you don't use often. Saving money, reducing waste and conserving resources.

2. Reduce food waste

Reduce food waste by planning meals, using what you have before buying more, shopping to a list, and freezing food you won't use in time.

3. Take The Pledge

Commit to putting your food scraps in the organics bin and recycling everything you can. Unley residents can Take The Pledge and go in the draw to win prizes. (unley.sa.gov.au/take-the-pledge)

4. Use your green bin

Make the most of your green organics bin for all organic materials including fruit and veg scraps, bones and meat, dairy, compostable takeaway food and drink packaging, tissues, paper towel, small scraps of paper, shredded paper, pet poo, lawn clippings and garden trimmings.

5. Recycle right

Check current recycling information and make sure items are placed loose in your recycling bin. Recycling correctly helps recover more materials and reduces contamination, while tricky items can often be recycled through other collection programs. *Soft plastics recycling is back at local supermarkets*

6. Avoid single-use plastics

Bring your own shopping bags, coffee cup and water bottle when you're out and about and choose products with less packaging where possible.

7. Repair and share.

Buy less and make things last longer by repairing items instead of replacing them and share or borrow items that are only used occasionally. Visit the Unley Repair Café, join your local Buy Nothing group, use the library, or share with friends, family and neighbours.

8. Inspire someone else.

Help others reduce waste by sharing the habits that work for you. Whether it's composting, repairing, recycling or buying second-hand, your experience could inspire someone else to get started.

9. Speak up for better waste outcomes.

Support action on waste reduction by contacting supermarkets, manufacturers or elected representatives. Asking for less packaging, more recycled content and better product stewardship can help drive broader change.



Preparing for
a Changing
Climate

DIY ACTIONS

Keeping our properties and neighbourhoods cool, green and resilient

1. Protect existing trees

Protect and care for existing trees by building around them, providing enough space for them to grow and watering through dry periods. You might even like to adopt your street tree (unley.sa.gov.au/adopt-a-tree).

2. Cool your home

Keep your home comfortable during hot weather by increasing shade and greenery around your property and reducing hard surfaces where possible. Insulation, blinds, curtains, fans and efficient air conditioning can reduce indoor temperatures and energy use.

3. Get ready for summer heat

Prepare for hot weather before a heatwave arrives. Know how to keep yourself, family members, neighbours and pets safe, and check in on older people, young children and others who may be more vulnerable to extreme heat.

4. Get to know your neighbours

Build connections with the people who live nearby. Connected communities are better able to support each other during emergencies and recover more quickly from challenging events.

5. Save and reuse water

Install a rainwater tank, choose water-efficient appliances, and find opportunities to reuse water in and around your home. Capturing and conserving water helps build resilience during hotter, drier conditions.

6. Plant natives for habitat

Include local native plants in your balcony, garden, verge, school or workplace to help create habitat. A mix of trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and wildlife. Even small spaces can make a difference.

7. Grow some food

Start small with herbs, leafy greens or seasonal vegetables. Build skills, connect with nature and enjoy fresh produce.

8. Start a conversation

Talk with friends, family, neighbours or colleagues about climate change and the actions you're taking. Sharing your experiences, ideas and concerns can help build understanding, encourage action and create positive change in your community.

9. Speak up for resilient communities.

Support initiatives that help communities adapt to a changing climate. Share your ideas with local decision-makers and advocate for more trees, cooler neighbourhoods, better biodiversity outcomes and stronger community connections.