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Today, more than ever, it is important to be aware of your energy usage and your eco-footprint on this planet as global warming becomes a real threat to our way of life.

Did you know that the average Western Australian household produces six tonnes of green house gases per year?

This information sheet has been provided to advise each householder in the City of Karratha of some simple measures that can be used to reduce energy consumption and recycle in the home.

Energy Efficiency

There are a number of very simple ways to reduce energy consumption in your home. By reducing energy consumption you are not only saving the environment but also saving money. Have you considered:

- Changing your incandescent light globes to compact fluorescent globes?
 - ✓ CFL globes last up to 8 times longer than incandescent globes and use around a quarter of the energy of the incandescent equivalent.
- Switching off lights and other electrical appliances when you're not in the room?
 - ✓ It is a myth that leaving appliances and lights running uses less energy than turning them on and off as needed.
 - ✓ Switching your appliances off at the power point rather than leaving them on 'standby' mode will further reduce your power costs
- When purchasing new electrical appliances looking at the energy rating?
 - ✓ Although some appliances may be cheaper than others an appliance with a better energy rating WILL save you money in the long term.
- Turning off your air conditioner when you're not at home or not in the room?
 - ✓ Turning off your air conditioner will save you money and consume less energy.
 - ✓ Having your air conditioner set between 24°C and 27°C rather than below 24°C will further reduce your cooling costs.
- Choosing solar power to heat water in your home?
 - ✓ The initial outlay may be more expensive but energy from the sun is free and constant in the Pilbara

Recycling

As yet, the City of Karratha does not have the facilities available to undertake municipal waste recycling. In the future this may change but in the mean time here a few things that you can do to reduce your waste and recycle in the home:

- Take your own bags to the shops instead of using plastic bags
 - ✓ Green bags are now available for purchase at most supermarkets
- Choose products at the shops with the LEAST amount of packaging
 - ✓ Buy in bulk where possible
- Compost your food scraps and old newspapers
 - ✓ This makes great fertilizer for the garden
- Give your unwanted items away or have a garage sale
 - ✓ Reduced the amount of household items in land fill

- ✓ Provide much needed furniture and clothing to charities
- Reuse computer paper, wrapping paper and cardboard boxes
 - ✓ Scrap paper can be used by children for craft projects
 - ✓ Ask your local school if they need boxes for school projects

If you need more information about any matter raised in this document, please contact the City of Karratha's Environmental Health Service on 9186 8555.