More Ways to increase your Energy Efficiency

♦ Maximise the use of natural light and ventilation throughout the day.

♦ Turn off lights each day during rest time.

♦ Place signs near all light switches, air conditioners and power points to act as reminders to turn off when not needed

♦ Use fans where possible instead of air conditioners

♦ Use correct temperature settings on air conditioners (18-20 degrees in winter and 24-25 degrees in summer) and section off rooms when heating or cooling to maximise efficient use of energy

♦ Always use cold water for washing, wait for a full load before running the machine and use the ecocycle function where available

♦ Minimise the use of clothes dryers as much as possible. Install an outside clothes line and use this in all but wet winter weather. Purchase some portable clothes airers to use inside when the over-night forecast is for rain in warmer months.

♦ Use a power board for groups of electrical equipment like computers and printers so that they can all be switched off easily overnight.

♦ Switch to more energy efficient lighting.

♦ Install sensor lights in infrequently used areas. Consider separate lighting for different areas so each needs only to be on when necessary

♦ Reduce heating through west facing windows using awnings, tinted windows and/or blinds

♦ Install a solar power system and/or solar hot water

♦ Make sure children are appropriately dressed requiring less use of heating and cooling appliances

♦ Consider using a check list at the end of each day to make sure all unnecessary lights and electric appliances are turned off (at the power point).

♦ Share with families the actions you are taking to reduce energy use.

♦ Include energy saving tips in your newsletter to inspire families to look at ways to reduce their own energy use!

♦ Support and promote events that encourage awareness of energy use and how we can all do more to reduce our energy consumption. Promoting an event like Earth Hour will encourage your service community to think about their impact on the world.

Earth Hour was launched in Sydney in 2007 as a lights-off event to raise awareness about climate change. It is held on the last Saturday in March every year and now engages more than 172 countries and 7000 cities and towns around the world. Earth hours calls for homes businesses and governments to turn off their lights for 1 hour between 8.30pm and 9.30 pm. This is a good time to reflect on what we are each doing to reduce the effects of climate change and what more we could do. Remember each journey starts with a single step.
To learn more go to: http://earthhour.org.au/home/