

Tim Adams Report.

Tim Adams from Sustainability Geelong gave a very informative talk at the Members Meeting on Friday 26 February, the first face to face meeting since early 2020.

The presentation focused on small steps for greater resilience in anticipation of future weather events and these include comparing various household appliances before replacing old ones and some of the suggestions included the following and expanded details will be on the PLCA website.

Fridges

Same Manufacturer similar size

Size 519 | Bottom mount Energy Rating 6 Stars Power use 202.34 kWhr/year

Size 509 | French Door Energy Rating 3.5 Stars Power use 394.45 kWhr/year .

Dish Washers Ratings are available for both energy and water Efficient dishwashers can use less water than hand washing

15 Place Settings Energy Rating 4 Stars Power use 235 kWhr/year WELS Rating 6 Stars /12l

12 Place Settings Energy Rating 3 Stars Power use 275 kWhr/year WELS Rating 4.5 Stars /10.7l

Clothes Washers

Front loaders are more energy and water efficient than top loaders Ratings are available for both energy and water 9kg front load Energy Rating 5 Stars Power use 212 kWhr/year WELS 4.5 Stars 77l

10kg top load Energy Rating 1.5 Stars Power use 980 kWhr/year WELS 3 Stars . H

Household Energy Efficiency Opportunities

Tim went on to describe what upgrading your home could look like:

- Putting in solar panels
- Installing a real-time energy monitoring system
- Installing a hot water heat pump or solar hot water system
- Changing your windows to double-glazed
- Switching your lights to LED lights the older style flouro bulbs use 80% more electricity than LED bulbs.
- Improving your insulation

- Installing a battery
- Adding an Electric Vehicle charging point

Make sure that no one in your family is frozen in their chair the next winter when you go to visit them

Heat waves cause more emotional response than cold spells 6.5% of deaths in this country are attributed to cold weather, compared with 0.5% from hot weather

Data indicates that in Sweden, cold caused an estimated 3.9% of deaths, in Australia the figure is in the order of 6.5% .

Gasparrini A, Guo Y, Hashizume M, et al. Mortality risk attributable to high and low ambient temperature: a multicountry observational study. Lancet 2015; published online May 21. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)62114-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)62114-0).

He went on to say that the relatively mild climate and low energy prices have in combination resulted in housing stock that delivers very poor results in terms of passive thermal performance. Natural gas was a by-product of oil extraction in Bass Strait and only charged at cost of distribution. Prior to the introduction of star ratings in Victoria the Regulatory Impact Statement assessed that houses were being built at around 2.5 Stars and older buildings were clearly much worse. In the Melbourne climate a 6 Star house uses 65% less energy than a 2.5 Star House and an 8 Star house uses 83% less

The CBA announced on Friday 26th February that they were offering a loan to customers of up to \$20,00 and 0.99%pa over 10 years for owners to upgrade properties to more efficient ones.

Some tips he gave were that 40% heat is lost through ceilings and adding insulation will reduce this. Also under floor heating can reduce heat loss of 30%.

His concluding remarks were:

Lack of progress in this area is due to negative misinformation being provided by interests wishing to maintain the status quo. Whole of House Star Ratings are relevant for benchmarking but have failed to inform results of how the dwelling will work for individual occupational profile. Experience from Projects like Geelong Sustainability Climate Safe Rooms provide tailored solutions to ensure that vulnerable members of the community will not be exposed to health threatening conditions in their homes. The thing that makes a difference is Knowledge not Money And appropriate application of knowledge will make money at the same time as delivering benefits to a sustainable environment.

For the full slide presentation view on the PLCA website.

Lynne Furness