

Energy savings plan offered

A new home energy saver project in Auckland, with co-funding from Auckland Council and Vector, could see participating homes save up to \$500 on their power bills each year.

It involves a team of local energy advisers providing Aucklanders with free personalised home energy assessments to calculate potential savings from various energy efficiency actions and suggest the lowest cost electricity retail plan suitable for each home.

Free Ecobulb LED light bulbs and free energy-efficient shower heads are provided at the end of the energy assessments.

"This initiative helps improve energy efficiency and economic outcomes for Auckland residents through creating more efficient homes that reduce power bills," Auckland Council climate action solutions team manager Adrian Feasey said.

"Auckland Council is excited to partner with Vector to support this project, and take further steps towards a sustainable future for all residents of Tāmaki Makaurau."

Advice on other free and easy-to-implement changes such as cleaning heat pump filters, showing people how to use their heat pump most efficiently and emptying and turning off partially filled old second fridges is also provided.

Ecobulb managing director Chris Mardon said the average household could save \$500 a year on their power bills.

"This could have cumulative savings of \$255,000 across all participating households," he said.

Vector's chief operating officer of electricity gas and fibre Peter Ryan said the company was pleased to support Ecobulb's initiative: "We strongly support using energy more efficiently and options to



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reduce power bills for customers. We're pleased to get behind Ecobulb and help more households benefit from this home energy saver programme and continue to gather more data on the benefits of these sorts of initiatives".

A 2020 study from the University of Ota-

go estimated that "more efficient residential lighting could reduce New Zealand's winter peak by 500 megawatts," which would be roughly equivalent to avoiding the need for additional generation capacity of the scale of New Zealand's Huntly Power Stations and the Stratford Peaker plant.