CLIMATE COUNCIL

PRACTICAL GUIDE

TOP TIPS FOR TAKING BACK CONTROL OF YOUR ENERGY

We asked our community what steps you're taking to cut their power bills and reduce their energy usage. This is what you told us is working.

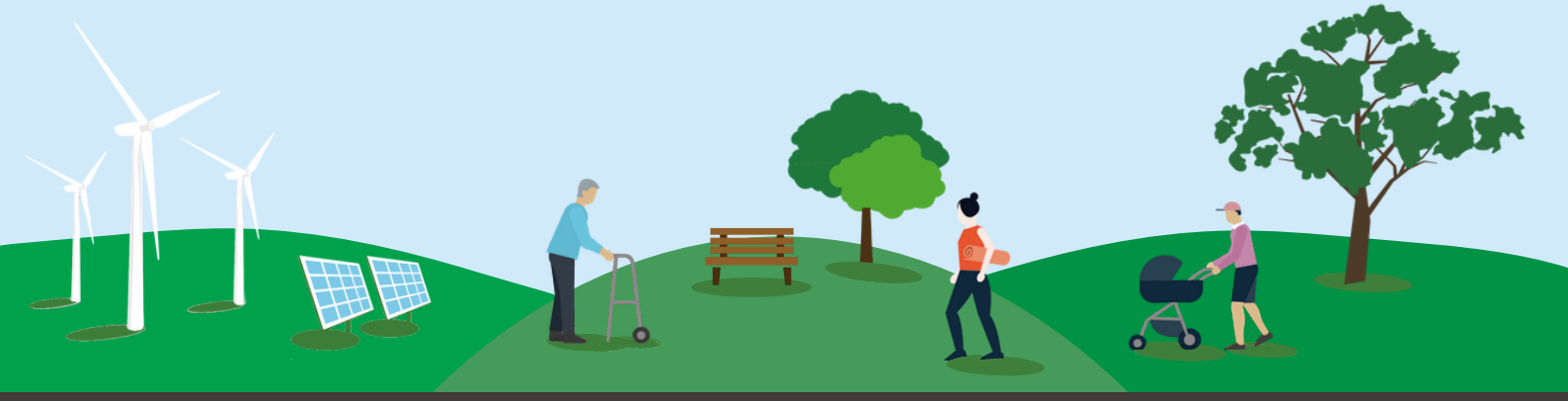
THREE THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW:

1. **People aren't doing just one thing – they're stacking changes that work for them:** Most of our supporters are making four or more changes across their home, transport and everyday life. People are doing what best fits their household, their budget and their circumstances.

2. **People said that reducing use of petrol and gas is making life better:** Supporters told us they're feeling fitter from cycling, less stressed from catching the train, more connected to their community through local farmers' markets – and more in control.

3. **The best advice is coming from each other:** Our community has plenty of practical, tested tips – from the renter using an electric frypan to get around a gas stovetop, to the neighbour who coordinates shopping trips. The ideas in this guide are tried and tested by you!

For more information on how clean energy helps during fuel shocks read our report, Fuel shock: why clean energy is our best defence.



WHAT'S OUR COMMUNITY DOING?

CLEAN ENERGY AT HOME:

Our community is cutting ties with gas and taking more control over home energy – from rooftop solar to swapping out the gas cooktop.

More than half said they're adding rooftop solar or batteries. Four in ten are replacing gas appliances with electric ones or changing how they heat and cool their homes. And more than a third are cooking differently to avoid using gas.

Here's what our supporters said:

"Converting my home from gas to electric with solar panels has saved me thousands of dollars a year." – Sarah

"Induction cooktop has been excellent and good for my arthritic weaker hands as an 84-year-old. Used to think gas was the only way to cook, now I enjoy using induction." – Frances

"Try to run electric appliances during the day, and use power from the battery at night." – Catherine

For more information on home batteries and rooftop solar, read Home batteries in Australia explained guide and our Seize the Sun report.

CLEANER TRANSPORT:

Our community is cutting back on expensive petrol by changing how they get around – from walking and cycling to switching to an EV.

More than half said they're travelling less where they can. Close to half are walking or cycling instead of driving. Four in ten are using public transport more, and a similar number are switching to an electric vehicle.

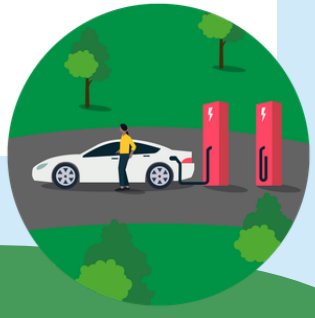
Here's what our supporters said:

"Bringing my son to childcare by bike helps me to be more active and he loves it." - Nicolas

"Buying an EV 2.5 years ago has made me less stressed by gas prices, and now my husband has bought one too." – Bec

"Catching more public transport has a happy side benefit of having more incidental conversations with people and feeling more connected." – Jenny

"By using a bike for transport I save so much money, not having a car, that I can weather the other price increases on groceries and bills." – Fiona



WHAT'S OUR COMMUNITY DOING?

WAYS PEOPLE ARE COPING

Small changes are helping our community save money, reduce waste, stretch what they have, and feel less exposed to rising fuel and energy costs. While the cost of solar, batteries and EVs continue falling, not everyone is in a position to buy them yet. But plenty of supporters are finding other ways to take back control.

Almost four in ten are shopping locally at farmers' markets, local grocers and food stalls. And many are combining trips and planning ahead to cut fuel use. Some supporters are growing their own food, using a smaller car instead of a 4WD, and driving more slowly or gently to save fuel.

Here's what our supporters said:

"Buying fruit and vegetables from a local stall makes me feel connected to community. I love that they greet us by name." – Anonymous

"Tying a bunch of errands together to do one round trip instead of one at a time and chewing through fuel and time. Win everywhere." – Martin

"Organising myself to minimise car trips. Enjoying the walk to and from the local shops when I only need a few items." – Bronwyn

"We're renting, so we're stuck with a gas stovetop. An electric kettle and frypan will mean we can make coffee and dinner using our green electricity account." – Kate

"Using our smaller car to drive about in, to use less petrol. We don't have an electric car yet." – Genevieve

"Working on a community food garden to promote food security." – Marie

"Using the car less. Using our small petrol car instead of our 4WD diesel. This is saving us money and makes us feel better as we've lowered our footprint." – Phil

"Batch cooking to freeze for later use, plus growing our own vegetables and fruit to pick each day." – Gillian

"Winter is coming: a lot of heat escapes through windows – apply bubble wrap on window panes to trap heat and keep the house warm." – Anonymous

"Not to overthink and get anxious but take small steps to help feel like we're taking the control back." – Caroline

