

How you can reduce your power consumption

1. If possible, try to minimise use of your air conditioner, or at least turn it off at night and use a fan to circulate the air
2. Keep your windows shaded both during the day and at night - during the day curtains/blinds help to insulate the house against the heat and during the night they help to retain cool air
3. Check around doors for draughts – gaps allow cool air to escape and reduce the efficiency of your air conditioner
4. Unplug your appliances when not in use – almost all modern appliances, including washing machines, have a stand-by mode which uses power even when turned off
5. Check you fridge and freezer temperatures – if they are set too low they may be using unnecessary power
6. Check the seals on fridges and freezers and replace if damaged - loss of cold air from within these appliances increases energy use
7. Organise your fridge and freezer so that you know where items are stored to avoid keeping the door open for extended periods while searching
8. A dishwasher can waste both energy and water if not used efficiently - wash larger pots and pans by hand in the sink and ensure the dishwasher has a full load before it is used
9. Only fill the kettle to the level that you need to avoid heating extra water unnecessarily
10. Try to avoid pre-heating the oven – while it is sitting empty it is using energy
11. If it is not raining our weather will dry your clothes just as quickly, probably faster, than a dryer which uses large amounts of energy
12. If buying appliances, ensure you purchase the most energy efficient that you can afford - the more stars the better!
13. Replace your light globes with LEDs which use less than a fifth of the energy of traditional bulbs – the electricity savings over time will quickly recoup the initial expense
14. Turn off lights when not in the room
15. Spend less time in the shower – Nhulunbuy does not have off-peak power therefore your hot water heater is working all day to keep the water at the required temperature. If possible, consider having your hot water heater adjusted to a lower temperature
16. Consider whether you only need to turn your hot water system on for a couple of nights per week, and off again in the morning - if you still have enough hot water to last it will be a cost saving exercise rather than paying to constantly have your water heated regardless of whether you use it or not
17. Don't use the microwave to thaw food – allow it to thaw naturally by placing in the fridge the night before
18. Try to avoid using the vacuum cleaner – a broom, brush and pan does not consume electricity