

- 1 Your guide in a changing world
- 1 A new 'star' to guide consumers
- 1 Appliance label: it's all on the web
- 2 New minimum standards policy
- 2 Education campaign for consumers and industry
- 3 Minimum standards introduced for household appliances
- 3 Standards on the way for electric motors and commercial air conditioners
- 3 Introducing the Australian Motor Systems Challenge
- 4 National codes and standards program – is it working?
- 4 Compliance also a priority

Your guide in a changing world

It's probably fair to say that the battle to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has now reached every Australian in one way or another. Whether it's changes to energy standards in local building regulations, power retailers offering households a green electricity option, or energy efficiency upgrades at the workplace, most people in the community realise that years of greenhouse discussion and debate are now giving way to real and tangible action.

The appliance and electrical equipment industries are already leading the way in the development of a more energy efficient economy. *Switched On* is designed to ensure the industry remains at the forefront of change, providing intelligence on international developments and information on local industry trends and regulatory change.

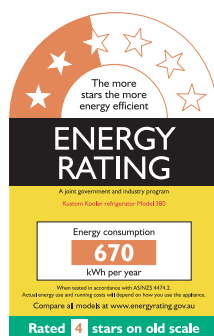
I hope you find *Switched On* a valuable source of information and I look forward to your feedback.

Gwen Andrews
Chief Executive

A new 'star' to guide consumers

The recently revised appliance energy rating label appeared in retail outlets from 1 July 2000. While the upgraded label looks much the same, it measures performance against a new, tougher standard, meaning most appliances will be awarded fewer stars.

The revised label can easily be identified by a green band at the base. Many products will have details of their original rating



in the green band, helping consumers make comparisons if they find a mix of the original and new labels on display stock.

The new label was introduced following several years of development with full cooperation of the appliance industry. Displaying the label will become mandatory at retail outlets from 1 October 2000.

Find out more by contacting the Energy Rating Label Hotline on **1800 155 244**.

Appliance label: it's all on the web

A new web site dedicated to the appliance energy rating label was launched jointly by the Commonwealth, State and Territory Energy Ministers during April.

The website at www.energyrating.gov.au provides information on all appliance models available on the Australian market, including details on energy consumption,

approximate energy cost, comparative energy efficiency information between models, and country of manufacturer.

Apart from consumer information, manufacturers and retailers can access comprehensive information on legal requirements with regard to labelling, appropriate standards and associated product detail.



AUSTRALIAN
Greenhouse
Office

The lead Commonwealth
agency on greenhouse matters

The AGO convened an annual stakeholder forum during March to discuss the national appliance and equipment energy efficiency program. The themes for Conference 2000 were appliance enforcement, energy rating labels and equipment best practice initiatives. Industry and consumer groups provided a "scorecard" view on the program. A summary of proceedings can be found at:

www.greenhouse.gov.au/energyefficiency

Standby power is a growing contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the household sector. The AGO recently held a national standby power forum to scope the problem, which attracted a range of national and international experts. A summary of proceedings can be found at:

www.greenhouse.gov.au/energyefficiency

Education campaign for consumers and industry



An education and awareness campaign on the new appliance energy rating label for manufacturers, retailers and consumers is now getting into full swing.

The campaign includes regular news bulletins for the appliance industry, education kits and videos for retail staff and point-of sale information for consumers. The campaign will be supported by media promotions and information in retailer catalogues.

The campaign was developed with the support and advice of manufacturers and retailers, who will play a key role in educating consumers.

New minimum standards policy

Minimum standards for energy efficiency are being considered for a greater range of products following government acceptance in August 1999 of a proposal sponsored by the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO). The new policy will also reduce the time taken to mandate a standard.

Products now being considered for minimum standards include:

- Commercial refrigeration;
- Commercial water heating and the remaining domestic electric water heaters;
- Other air conditioner types (evaporative);
- Industrial equipment; and
- Lighting.

"These new rules will allow agencies like the AGO to develop minimum standards with more certainty of outcome and with

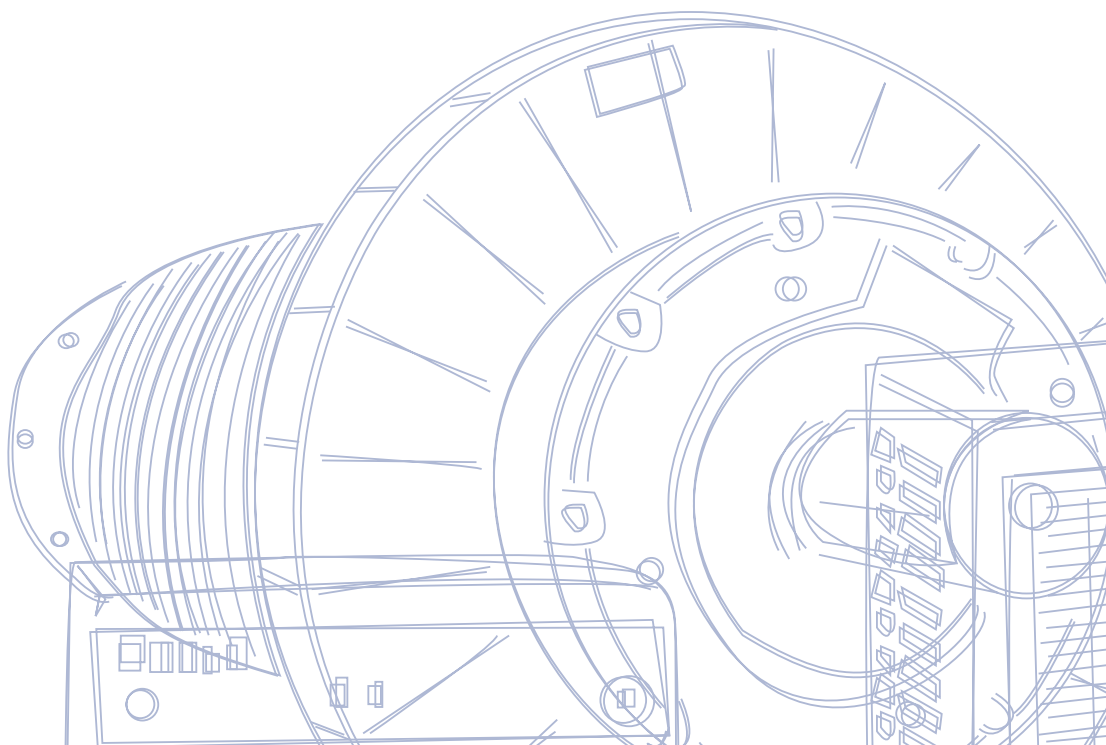
even closer consultation with stakeholders", says Phillip Harrington, Executive Manager of the Sustainable Energy Group within the AGO. "All stakeholder interests are protected when clear, appropriate consultation steps are built into the process."

The AGO will publish a profile for each product which will include the proposed efficiency level, testing methods and possible start date of the minimum standard. Profiles are expected to be released early in 2001, after the proposals have been tested with key stakeholders.

If you are interested in any or all of these products, please contact Shane Holt at the AGO to be placed on the mailing list:

shane.holt@greenhouse.gov.au

'Fuel and electricity used for home heating and cooling can generate up to 1 tonne of greenhouse gas and cost up to \$1000 each year.'



Minimum standards introduced for household appliances

The first-ever minimum standards for energy performance were introduced nationally on 1 October, 1999. The minimum standards apply to refrigerators, freezers and storage electric water heaters. Only products that meet mandatory greenhouse emission targets can be lawfully manufactured in or imported into Australia. Suppliers and retailers have a 12 month moratorium to sell off old stock.

"From our studies of the market, consumers actually save money buying complying appliances," said Dr Tony Marker, Manager of the Energy Efficiency Team in the AGO. "Any extra paid in purchasing an efficient appliance is more than covered through lower electricity use over the life of the product."

Anyone interested in the actual levels can purchase Australian Standards AS 4474 and AS 1056 available from the Standards Australia website at:

www.standards.com.au

Standards on the way for electric motors and commercial air conditioners

Governments are planning to introduce minimum standards for electric motors and commercial air conditioners in 2001. The proposed standards were made public earlier this year after several years of development. The levels are contained in AS 1359 and AS 3823 which are available from the Standards Australia website.

The AGO will use an independent consultant to model the impact of the proposed standards in a cost benefit study that will consider the best outcomes for the community. The results of the cost benefit study and public consultation will be available before the end of this year.

Please contact Shane Holt at the AGO if you would like a copy of the cost benefit analysis when it becomes available. You can also contact Shane to register your interest in attending public meetings scheduled in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide later this year to discuss the proposed standards for these products.

Introducing the Australian Motor Systems Challenge

A new program is due to be launched in August to target greenhouse emissions from electric motors. The program, known as the Australian Motor Systems Challenge, is being developed jointly by the AGO and the Department of Industry Science and Resources.

It will address barriers to more efficient use of motors, including scepticism, indifference, market structure, payback gaps and lack of relevant information. It covers motor efficiency, appropriate motor application, whole system efficiency, and efficient rewinding of motors.

Key elements of the program will include a website featuring a free software package to select the best electric motor for the user. Case study information and best practice examples will also be showcased on the website. A series of articles on motor systems efficiency will appear in *Australian Energy News*.

Interested persons can contact Leon Arundell at the AGO for more information at:

leon.arundell@greenhouse.gov.au

Next Edition

Look out for the following articles in the next issue of Switched On.....

Appliances are increasingly consuming large amounts of electricity even when consumers think they are turned off. The energy used by an appliance when plugged in but not performing its central function is called standby power. Find out how AGO plans to better measure and manage this latest challenge for greenhouse gas emissions.

The new minimum standards policy is getting a workout in the second round of discussions on domestic refrigerators. New levels will be introduced in late 2004 that hope to match the very best levels of our major trading partners.

The AGO will launch a two-stage study to monitor label and standards compliance by retail stores throughout Australia. Details of the study, due to be launched in October this year, will be provided in the next issue of Switched On.

Did you know?

'Fluorescent lights including compact fluorescents, generate one-fifth as much greenhouse gas as ordinary globes.'

