

I've been 'Busted'

by Anne Weinert

I recently took up Willoughby City Council's (WCC) offer of a free home assessment to show residents how to reduce their household's carbon footprint. Over the course of an hour, the expert "Gas Buster" walked through my house, looking at my appliances, lighting, and gas, electricity and water bills. He then calculated both the household's carbon footprint (energy, waste and transport), and the current NABERS* energy and water star rating. Because I live in a large house with few people, both my ratings were low, despite having cut my usage in all of these areas by more than 30% over the last 3 or so years.

As part of the assessment, I have received a report detailing the household's carbon footprint and an action plan highlighting areas of potential savings. For example, if I switch to cold water for washing clothes, I can save more than \$60 in electricity bills and 225kg of greenhouse gases each year.

The Gas Busters program has the goal of slashing greenhouse gas emissions by helping educate residents about emissions around the home and actions they can take to reduce them, and will contribute to Council achieving its community target of a 30% greenhouse gas reduction from 1999 levels by 2015. It is the first major e.restore 3 initiative to be launched by Council aimed at Climate Action in the residential sector.

As part of Council's school program, free

energy assessments will also be conducted at school and schools will be assisted in developing an environmental management plan.

To arrange a FREE visit phone 9777 1000. Residents are advised not to delay as the number of assessments is strictly limited.

* NABERS, a national initiative of the NSW

Dept of Environment & Climate Change, is a performance-based rating system for existing buildings. NABERS rates a building on the basis of its measured operational impacts on the environment, and provides a simple indication of how well you are managing these environmental impacts compared with your peers and neighbours. See www.nabers.com.au



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To feel your best, talk to one of the friendly GPs for the right advice.

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GASBUSTERS HOME ASSESSMENT SERVICE



Willoughby City Council's new Gasbusters team will help your household save energy, money and the environment.

The Gasbusters Home Assessment Service will provide:

- ✓ Tips for reducing your household energy bills.
- ✓ FREE energy saving devices.
- ✓ Expert advice on practical ways to make your house more eco-friendly; and
- ✓ A tailored action plan with steps to assist in reducing your household's carbon footprint.

Book your **FREE** Gasbusters Home Assessment Service today on 9777 1000 or for more information visit www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au



This service is provided by Willoughby City Council and funded by the Sustainability Levy, e.restore.