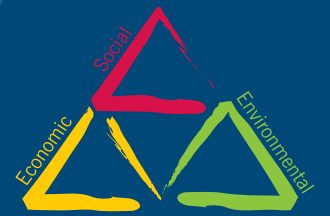


# FACT SHEET



## smart&sustainable HOMES

Photovoltaic (PV) cells help reduce your impact on the environment



### Make your home smart and sustainable

A smart and sustainable home is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. By living in a smart and sustainable home you can:

- save money on expensive water and energy bills, as well as on costly household repairs and maintenance
- provide a safer, more secure home for your family
- live in a home that contributes to a cleaner and healthier environment.

Sustainable Home Toowoomba



The design of your home and the way it compliments your lifestyle are important decisions to consider when building or renovating. The environmentally friendly smart and sustainable home is cool in summer and warm in winter, allowing you to move around more easily, feeling more comfortable and secure in your home. You and your family can live in the home for generations to come and best of all you will save money in the long run.

If you are aware of the impact that design features have within a home, you can choose a home that is easy to maintain, efficient to run and will complement your lifestyle as your needs inevitably change. It will be sustainable over the long-term and will still be attractive.

Solutions for a sustainable design will vary from house to house depending on your needs and the unique requirements of your site. By being innovative and creative, you can achieve a smart and sustainable home that is functional and attractive.

Sustainable Home Brisbane



Water saving shower rose



Sustainable Home Brisbane



Sustainable Home Toowoomba



### » Saving water, energy and waste

You can save water at home by choosing water efficient taps and showers. And why not consider using a water tank to water your garden and flush the toilet? Check the requirements with your local council.

Cut your energy costs by orientating your home correctly for passive solar design and to capture natural ventilation. Insulation, eaves and shading are also important considerations in your design. No longer will you swelter through the summer months or freeze in winter, you'll also save heating and cooling costs.

Careful planning will help to eliminate waste and reduce your expenses. Consider how you can save water and energy, and use recycled materials in the early stages of building or renovating your home to make it more environmentally sustainable.

### » Safer, more secure, flexible homes

A smart and sustainable home is designed with people in mind. It considers safety, security and flexibility in design to make your home work for you now and in the future. This means your home is more socially sustainable.

Think about incorporating wider doorways and hallways, step-free entrances and a hobless shower. Simple ways to make your home safer include features such as reduced-slip flooring, a lockable cabinet to store medicines and poisons, and designing the kitchen not to double as a passageway.

Make your home more secure by including security screens on windows and doors, lighting doorways adequately and designing the home so you can observe the neighbourhood from the main living area, without compromising privacy.

To ensure your home will accommodate your family's needs at all stages of their lives, design your home to be comfortable, flexible and accessible. Universal design features will make your home more liveable, creating a home for life.

### » Cost savings

A smart and sustainable home is economically sustainable, which means that it will save you money over the lifetime of the home. You can reduce the cost of future maintenance and modifications by including smart features in the initial design and construction of a home. For example, using low-maintenance materials and energy-efficient appliances with high star ratings, will reduce the ongoing costs of running your home.

Did you know that altering your existing home to accommodate the family's changing needs can cost up to three times more than including the same features when you initially design the house?

Furthermore, if you ever decide to sell, a smart and sustainable home is more marketable because it will appeal to a greater number of buyers.

Research House, Rockhampton



More information is available from:

[www.smarthousing.qld.gov.au](http://www.smarthousing.qld.gov.au)

[www.sustainable-homes.org.au](http://www.sustainable-homes.org.au)

Smart and Sustainable Homes  
Technology and Development Division  
Department of Public Works

GPO Box 2457  
Brisbane Queensland 4001