

Title	NSW home energy research needs 50 more homeowner participants first report reveals
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The [first phase report](#) of research to assess and improve the current and compulsory sustainability residential property construction regulation tool – the Building Sustainability Index ([BASIX](#)) - released today, reveals another 50 NSW homeowners of dwellings 10 years old or less and passionate about understanding their energy use, are still required for this major energy research project.

BASIX has been compulsory for 10 years and is used by NSW State and Local Governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It also provides the homeowner with an energy savings guide whilst providing a valuable contribution to the State's sustainable future.

The research, funded by the [CRC for Low Carbon Living](#) (CRCLCL) and conducted by the University of New South Wales (UNSW), showed that of the 128 people, 71% of which had dwellings of four or more bedrooms, that completed an initial online and paper [survey](#), 69 have gone through to the second monitoring research stage but more are required.

Project Leader Dr Lan Ding said data from a further 50 participants will provide added impact to the research.

“We need homeowners with buildings 10 years old and therefore built following the BASIX guidelines. Getting involved will not take up much time. It involves an initial five minute survey for the first phase and then the second phase involves an assessment of the property and installation of non-invasive energy monitoring equipment. The energy and overall environmental monitoring will be for one year to collect winter and summer data,” she said.

“Benefit to participants includes a unique opportunity to review their home's actual energy usage and compare it to a city scale and be directly involved in updating the BASIX tool, which will have a large impact on the sustainable future of housing in New South Wales. It is also an opportunity to participate in building construction performance analysis, such as air leakage.

“Overall research findings will assist to identify areas for improvement of the BASIX tool. This will inform sustainability strategies policy to enable government regulators better understand design options and post occupancy behaviour,” she said.

The first phase of the study also showed that 72.44% of those surveyed need to heat and cool their dwellings with 72.22% using an air conditioner to cool and 66.14% used gas for their hot water.

(MORE)

According to Professor Deo Prasad, CRCLCL CEO the study will inform future sustainability strategies and policy to enable government regulators better understand design options and post-occupancy behaviour.

"This is the opportunity for NSW home owners to take part in a project that will influence policy and planning decisions, that ultimately affect how new residential buildings are constructed."

To take part homeowners must complete the first survey:

<https://www.surveys.unsw.edu.au/f/159434/f6b5/>

The UNSW research is partnered with the City of Sydney, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, the Commonwealth Department of Industry. Additional support was provided by Sutherland Shire Council, Ku-Ring-Gai Council, Campbelltown City Council, Parramatta City Council, Liverpool City Council and Penrith City Council

About the CRC for Low Carbon Living Ltd

The CRC for Low Carbon Living (CRCLCL) is a national research and innovation hub that supports Australian industry to be globally competitive in the low carbon built environment sector.

It brings together property, planning, engineering and policy organisations with leading Australian researchers. CRCLCL develops new social, technological and policy tools for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment.

A key aim of the CRCLCL is to help cut Australia's residential and commercial carbon emissions by 10 mega tonnes by 2020, which is the environmental equivalent of taking 2.3 million cars off the road. This will be achieved through developing low carbon building construction materials and increasing the evidence base for government policy and planning, among other measures. Australia has set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 25 per cent by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050 compared with 2000 levels.

When the 2020 carbon reduction targets are met, the CRCLCL will have delivered a direct benefit of \$250 million per year to the economy, while reducing risk to the \$150 billion per year construction industry as it adjusts to a carbon-constrained economy.

Ultimately the CRCLCL will help unlock barriers to cost-effective carbon reduction opportunities, empower communities and facilitate the widespread adoption of integrated renewable energy. This will enable the sector to transition and contribute to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions targets while maintaining industry competitiveness and improving quality of life.

It is supported by the Cooperative Research Centres program, an Australian Government initiative.

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