

Sustainable Living in the Alps

Alpine areas, which are those above the natural treeline and are covered by snow for roughly four months of the year, account for 0.15% of Australia's total land mass. Alpine environments are therefore geographically rare and are treated as special and unique places.



Climate change is affecting our precious alpine environment, but the good news is that skiers, snowboarders and snow players can all do something to help. Even a small change to our energy consumption now will help reduce the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, and thus help preserve our alpine environments in the future. The biggest cause of global warming is carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere when fossil fuels such as oil and coal are burned for energy. So when you reduce your energy consumption, you fight global warming.

You can do your bit to combat climate change when you're at the snow - here's 10 simple ways to help keep winter cool, save the snow, and save some money:

1. **Insulate your house or lodge** - turn down the thermostat and use draught stoppers.
2. **Cut hot water consumption** - wash clothes in cold water and fit water-efficient shower heads and reducers.
3. **Purchase energy efficient appliances** - choose the highest energy-efficient star rating and use LED light bulbs.
4. **Turn off lights and appliances when at home or on holiday** - it is best to turn them off at the powerpoint.
5. **Support renewable energy sources** - switch to Green Power with your electricity supplier.
6. **Avoid, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle** - avoiding and reducing waste reduces landfill and thus reduces production of the greenhouse gas methane. Participate in the Living Bin organic management system.
7. **Eco-buy** - purchase greenhouse friendly products from local sources.
8. **Reduce energy used for transport** - share a ride or take a bus to the snow and to work.
9. **Lead change at your workplace or business** - spread the word to cool global warming and keep winter cool.
10. **Plant a snowgum** - trees take up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.