Unfortunately there are variables that affect the way you should use or save on energy, so I'll try and point out the main differences and how to take advantage and save money based on your circumstance.

There are two main considerations for effective cost savings on your energy bill,
1. Do you have Solar?
2. What type of meter do you have?

Let's look at what you should consider if you **have a solar system**.

Remember solar only produces power when the sun is out, and the solar PV system does NOT store any electricity! So with this in mind you should:

Use your energy during the day
- Put the dishwasher on in the morning so it's ready when you come home.
- Run the washing machine and dyer during the day.
- Use your slow cooker, so meals are ready when you get home.
- Instead of ironing at night while watching TV, iron on Saturday or Sunday morning, while watching TV.
- Don't iron the one piece you need today, iron in batches so you are not heating the iron for one item.

Keep night time usage to a minimum
- Security or sensor lights usually have higher wattage globes, consider LED for these, and turn the timer down to only what is needed.
- Try and charge smartphones, music players, tablets and laptops during the day and run them on battery at night
- Use ceiling fans to cool bedrooms at night
- If you're a little cold, use a blanket or jumper to keep warm rather than turning on the heater
- Close rooms that are not in use to control loss of energy to those areas

If you don't have solar, there are still things you can do to reduce the bill. But these savings are dependent on the type of meter you have.

There are generally two types of meters, a **single tariff** or a **dual tariff**.
Single Tariff meters charge you a single "peak" price regardless of the time of day when you use the power

For this tariff the energy retailers have a stepped system for charging your power use, they may vary a little from provider to provider from the example below, but they essentially look like this…

Next step kWh				37.66 c
Next step 1500 kWh			34.89 c	
Next step 700 kWh		30.75 c		
First step 300 kWh	30.23 c			

As this tariff does not "reward' you for after hours (off peak) use, your main goal is to eliminate the top two, or even three, price steps of your usage.

Consider these General savings measures
- Change to LED lighting for your house
- Once you have powered down your computer (desktop or laptop) turn it off at the switch, also turn off your printer and monitor at the switch.
- You generally only use your toaster for a few minutes in the morning, but leave it on all day – turn it off at the power point after you use it.
- Does the coffee machine need to be on standby while you are at work? Turn it off at the switch.
- Turn off lights when they are not needed
- Keep your light fittings clean. Dirty globes mean less light
- Set air-conditioning to recirculate, this way your system does not need to work as hard to convert outside temperature air to the desired inside temperature.
- Do you really need that second fridge running over winter? Switch it off.
- Any second fridge or freezer that only has a few items in it, move the items and turn it off.
- If you're a little cold, use a blanket or jumper to keep warm rather than turning on the heater
- Close off rooms that are not in use to control loss of energy to those areas.
- If you leave the back light on when you are out, try installing battery or solar powered sensor lights.

If you do not have a solar system and your meter is a **dual tariff** meter.

Dual Tariff meters charge you a "peak" and "off peak" price depending on what time of day you use the power. If you have an "Off Peak" charge on your bill, then your meter is a dual tariff.

In South Australia, Peak Time is 7am - 9pm on Business Days, and Off Peak Time is all time other than Peak Times, ***please note that these times are based on NON daylight savings times*** so add one hour, between October and April! (8am to 10pm business days)

Because your rate could be half in off peak times, this is when you should be consuming your energy.

So unlike when you have solar, keep your daytime usage to a minimum!

Use your energy during the night (remember the off peak times)
- Put the dishwasher on at night before you go to bed so it's ready in the morning.
- Run the washing machine and dryer at night as well.
- Iron on the weekends, as these are all off peak times.
- But still iron in batches so you are not heating the iron for one item.
- Charge smartphones, music players, tablets and laptops over night

General savings measures
- Close rooms that are not in use to control loss of energy to those areas
- Security or sensor lights usually have higher wattage globes, consider LED for these, and turn the timer down to only what is needed.
- Use ceiling fans to cool bedrooms at night
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Keep daytime usage to a minimum