

High-Rise Apartment Residents Are Sydney's Big Energy Users

New figures show high-rise apartment dwellers are Sydney's biggest consumers of energy. A study by the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability and EnergyAustralia shows flat dwellers are responsible for an average of 5.4 tonnes of greenhouse gasses per person, compared with 2.9 tonnes for house residents. Heated swimming pools and inefficient lighting and heating systems are to blame, the study found. The figures will lend weight to calls from groups who are pushing for the State Government to tighten energy efficiency targets for new developments from a current 20 per cent for apartments to 40 per cent. The Local Government Association has also defended the tougher energy and water-saving measures in new homes. New South Wales Planning Minister Frank Sartor is reviewing the operation of the building sustainability index (BASIX) and examining the implications of increasing the energy-saving target in new homes to 40 per cent from July. The building industry is resisting the move, saying it will push up the cost of units to unaffordable levels. The Minister is expected to make an announcement on the issue shortly.

[Source esaa news]