

Isabella's story

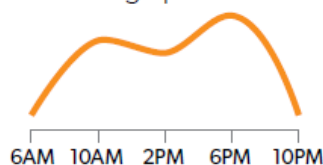
Isabella wants to find the simplest way to reduce her household electricity costs.



Isabella

Location: **Rural town**
House type: **3 bedroom**
Occupants: **2 adults**
Tariff: **Time of use**
Existing solar: **2 kW**

Daily electricity usage profile:



Daily average: **10 kWh**
Annual total: **3,650 kWh**

Isabella and her husband are retired and want to cut back on their expenses. Solar covers a lot of their daytime energy usage but as a small household they export power to the grid.

Since the Solar Bonus Scheme ended Isabella has been getting a lower solar feed-in tariff and is considering installing a battery to reduce her bills.

The sales person she spoke to suggested a 3 kWh battery with a battery inverter for \$6,500, providing an estimated saving of \$330 per year. This would mean the system would pay back its cost over 20 years, which is longer than the warranty period and Isabella doesn't like that.

While she was searching for information about batteries she learnt that simple energy efficiency measures can create quicker savings. Isabella got an energy audit done to find out where she could improve the most.

What did Isabella decide?



Solar: no additional solar.

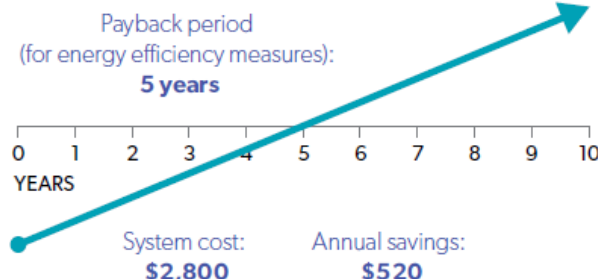


Battery: no battery because payback is too slow.



Energy efficiency: Isabella improved her home's energy efficiency by installing ceiling insulation, draught proofing, an efficient shower head and LED lights.

The bottom line



ASSUMPTIONS AND NOTES:

- The cost estimates for energy efficiency actions are indicative.
- Estimated savings from her household's energy efficiency measures were taken from Sustainability Victoria Households report.
- Energy price projections based on data from the AER State of the Market 2017 report.

Takeaways

- 1 Investigate other ways to save money and energy before looking at batteries, especially if the battery payback period is longer than the warranty period.
- 2 Energy efficiency measures are often better value than batteries.

Testing



Sharing



Advocacy

