



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Frank Sartor MP

Minister for Planning

Minister for Redfern Waterloo

NEW SOUTH WALES *Minister for Science and Medical Research*

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)

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NEXT STAGE OF BASIX TO MAKE NSW MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

Planning Minister Frank Sartor today confirmed most new freestanding homes in NSW will be required to meet a 40 per cent energy reduction target from July 1, 2006.

Mr Sartor said the next stage of the NSW Government's ground-breaking BASIX scheme will also increase the energy-saving target for most new dwellings.

"The NSW Government's Building Sustainability Index has been widely hailed for delivering long term environmental benefits and ongoing savings for home owners," Mr Sartor said.

Independent research shows complying with BASIX can slash household water and power bills by up to \$600 a year on average, Mr Sartor said.

"The Government has consulted with environmentalists and industry groups at every stage of its implementation to ensure BASIX remains a practical and workable tool," Mr Sartor said.

"The changes I am announcing today ensure the targets are appropriate to a new home's type and location, and remain flexible and cost-effective."

The new energy targets follow BASIX reforms to cut water consumption in new homes by up to 40 per cent, depending on location.

Regional variations

Mr Sartor said the next round will include regional variations for energy-saving targets, in response to local climatic conditions.

"Our analysis shows the 40 per cent energy reduction target is inappropriate for parts of the State that experience more extreme temperature differences," Mr Sartor said.

"However, the maximum targets for each dwelling type will apply in the State's coastal region, where more than eighty per cent of new homes are forecast to be built in coming years."

BASIX for apartment buildings

From July 1, a new energy reduction target of 35% will apply to three-storey multi-unit residential developments in the coastal region. The target for apartment buildings of between four and five storeys will increase to 30 per cent.

Mr Sartor said the energy target for high-rise apartment buildings introduced last October will remain at 20 per cent for the time being, pending a further review in mid-2008.

The NSW Government will also invest \$300,000 in a trial of cogeneration technology.

"Under the current rules, achieving a 20 per cent reduction against the state-wide average is an effective cut of 50 per cent for high rise buildings," Mr Sartor said.

“That’s because power use in common areas means the average energy consumption per high-rise resident is much higher than in other dwelling types.

“To double this target to 40 per cent would force a reliance on untested technologies, such as cogeneration, and could impose an unrealistic compliance cost.

“I have asked my Department to review BASIX in two years, following the cogeneration trial, to determine whether a further increase in energy targets is appropriate.”

BASIX for Alterations and Additions

Mr Sartor said the scheme will also be extended to major alterations and additions to homes from October 1 – a delay of three months compared to the original schedule.

“BASIX for alterations and additions will now become mandatory on October 1 this year,” Mr Sartor said.

“Minor works with a value of less than \$100,000 will be exempt from the scheme until July 1, 2007.

“This threshold will then be reduced to \$50,000 until the completion of a review in 2008.”

The scheme will apply to renovations that require a development application or complying development certificate.

FACT SHEET

The changes deliver an overall reduction of 36% in energy use by new homes.

Under the new targets, BASIX is forecast to save more than eight million tonnes of carbon dioxide and 287 billion litres of water over the next decade.

Compliance with the new energy targets is expected to cost an additional \$700-\$2,100 on average for detached homes, townhouses, low-rise and mid-rise units.

BASIX compliance delivers average savings on utility bills of between \$300-\$600 p.a.

The typical house will need to include features such as an efficient hot-water system and energy-efficient lighting to meet the increased energy-saving targets.

As part of the changes, regional and building-type variations will be built into the targets.

More information can be found at www.basix.nsw.gov.au

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