



MEDIA RELEASE

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'MY GREEN HOME' IS FULL OF APPLIANCE SURPRISES

The Ngewana family finds savings where they least expected it

Who would have thought that you could place your hand on a stove plate dialed to its highest setting, ready to bring water to a quick boil, without getting burned or even feeling heat? Certainly not Bulelwa Ngewana. But as her family has discovered, when it comes to appliance efficiency, home greening is full of surprises.

The Ngewana family discovered in their eco-audit that their laundry, stove and outlet sockets together used more than a quarter of their electricity. They needed to find better appliances and better ways to use them.

Their first shock came when confronting their weekly pile of things to iron. After removing pajamas, fitted sheets and other items which don't really need to be ironed, the pile was reduced to only a third of what it was! Since irons use lots of electricity, this is an easy way to save time and money.

Both new and old technology amazed the Ngewanas in the kitchen. The stove that heats pots but not hands is the latest induction stove from Snappy Chef, which uses magnetic fields to heat the pot or pan without first heating the stove plate, saving about 30 percent on electricity for cooking. And the Ngewanas don't have to leave pots on the stove for long because they discovered the old magic of insulation cooking. Pop the pot into a Wonderbag, and it continues to cook for hours without any more expensive energy.

Refrigerators and TVs have also made surprising leaps in efficiency recently, so the Ngewanas have a new Hisense refrigerator with an A+ energy rating and two Hisense LED TVs. The new fridge will use about a third as much energy as many old fridges, and should save as much as R1000 on annual electricity costs. The new LED TVs are only using 35.5 watts, which is a saving of almost 70% on what the Ngewanas' previous LCD TV used before.

Even a toilet can use surprisingly little these days. A half-flush on the Ngewana family's new Lecico dual flush toilet uses about a quarter of the water that their old toilets used for each flush.

This week's theme at My Green Home is appliances. The website, www.mygreenhome.org.za, shows how to follow the Ngewanas' path toward energy and water efficiency. In a video 'webisode', viewers can watch the Ngewana family debating the ironing pile and testing the new stove and other efficient devices, while web pages offer appliance advice including a shoppers' Guide to Appliance Energy Labels.

My Green Home is led by the Green Building Council South Africa, with main co-funding from the German government through the South African-German Energy Programme (SAGEN). It's also supported by the 49M campaign, the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) and a range of product sponsors and partner organisations.

Those who participate in the My Green Home journey stand a chance to win green prizes, including the grand prize: their own 'green home makeover'. Anyone who submits a 'selfie' photo with their energy-saving appliance or device to the website or via Twitter (@mygreenhomesa) by 12h00 on Monday 16th June is eligible for this week's prizes in a random draw, as well as the grand prize in early August.

Energy and water efficiency-related equipment in the Appliance theme has been sponsored by: Hisense <http://www.hisense.co.za/>, Lecico <http://www.lecicoso.co.za/>, Geysewise <http://www.geyserwise.co.za/?page=1>, Homebug <https://www.homebug.co.za/>, AquaTrip <http://www.aquatrip.com.au/>, Snappy Chef <http://www.snappychef.co.za/> Green African Initiative Aquatrip <http://www.greenafricainitiatives.co.za/>, Natural Balance <http://nb-wonderbag.com/>

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