

Environment

Home truths on energy use



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How to use energy efficiently in a domestic setting is this month's burning topic.

A fractious cloud of doubt over man-made climate change was all but lifted after last month's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that mankind's contribution to global warming is now estimated to be 95 per cent certain.

Climate sceptics who still cling to a five per cent sliver of uncertainty should remember that, in the scientific world, nothing is ultimate. Denying human causes of emissions, which threaten the earth's atmosphere and planetary survival, is like choosing to board an aircraft with only a one-in-20 chance of not crashing.

During October, the Malta Resources Authority organised a series of information sessions open to the public.

In a hands-on session, engineer George Cassar invited participants to compare electrical devices such as phone chargers and transformers, which emit heat when left plugged into an

all fall under the new legislation, part of which became effective as of last month.

The new labels give an indication of the annual energy consumption that can be expected from the product with average use. If a product is imported from outside Europe, the supplier for the local market must acquire technical data on energy efficiency from the manufacturer and make it available to consumers.

Guidance for suppliers and dealers on making product information available to consumers is available from the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority.

Televisions must carry an icon showing how much energy is wasted when left on standby mode. Other environmental factors are included in the new



ENERGY LABEL
REGULATIVE REQUIREMENTS

SEER: seasonal efficiency values in cooling
Classifications from A+++ (most energy efficient) to D (least energy efficient)

SCOP: seasonal efficiency values in heating
Classifications from A+++ (most energy efficient) to D (least energy efficient)

Design load for cooling
New seasonal efficiency ratings in cooling (SEER)

Design load for heating
New seasonal efficiency ratings in heating (SCOP)

Annual energy consumption during a cooling season, including auxiliary modes
Annual energy consumption during a heating season, including auxiliary modes

Sound power value for indoor unit
Sound power value for outdoor unit

To take into account the broad range of conditions, 3 climate zones are used: cold, average and warm
Blue = colder climate (optional)
Green = average climate (compulsory)
Red = warmer climate (optional)

When out shopping for appliances, consumers will find that comparing energy efficiency for the same type of product is getting easier thanks to new EU labeling laws.

loads are needed com- check can be run on their

