

Electrifying Southland District

A pathway to savings for households, economic growth for the community, reduced emissions and greater resilience.

Southland District has crossed the electrification tipping point where homes can save money and reduce their emissions by going electric.

The technology is proven, the economics stack up, and the transition is already underway. But there are still plenty of households paying more than they need to by running on fossil fuels.



The opportunity for Southland District

\$250,000

bill savings every day, \$93 million every year, by electrifying Southland District households and vehicles

\$7,700

energy bill savings per household, every year

\$3,800

net savings per household, every year, including upfront costs

32,100

fossil fuel machines (cars, heaters and cooktops) in Southland District homes

57,000 tonnes

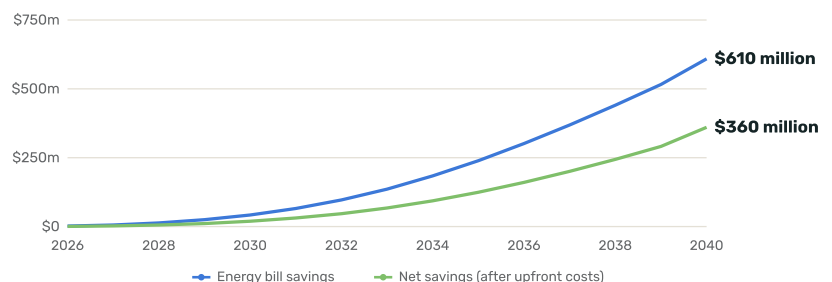
CO₂e avoided every year

440

new local jobs created

Southland District homes could cumulatively save a net \$360 million between 2026 and 2040

As more homes electrify, the savings add up. By 2040, Southland District households could **collectively save \$610 million on energy bills**, or \$360 million net including upfront costs. And the earlier homes make the switch, the more savings they'll see.



Community savings assume upgrading home appliances to electric and adding solar and batteries to 80% of homes.
Net savings include upfront costs and interest.

Economics

\$150,000 spent
on fossil fuels every day

That's **\$54 million every year** on fossil fuels by just households in Southland District. Most of these fossil fuels are imported, meaning this money leaves the local economy. Plus, history shows fossil fuel costs are volatile, with **prices rising faster than the rate of inflation**.

\$250,000 saved
every day

Electrifying home appliances and vehicles, with 80% adopting rooftop solar and batteries, would **cut total household energy-related bills from \$160 million to \$69 million** every year. That's \$93 million saved yearly, and meaningful cost of living relief for Southland District households.

Learn more:

rewiring.nz/regional-reports/southland-district

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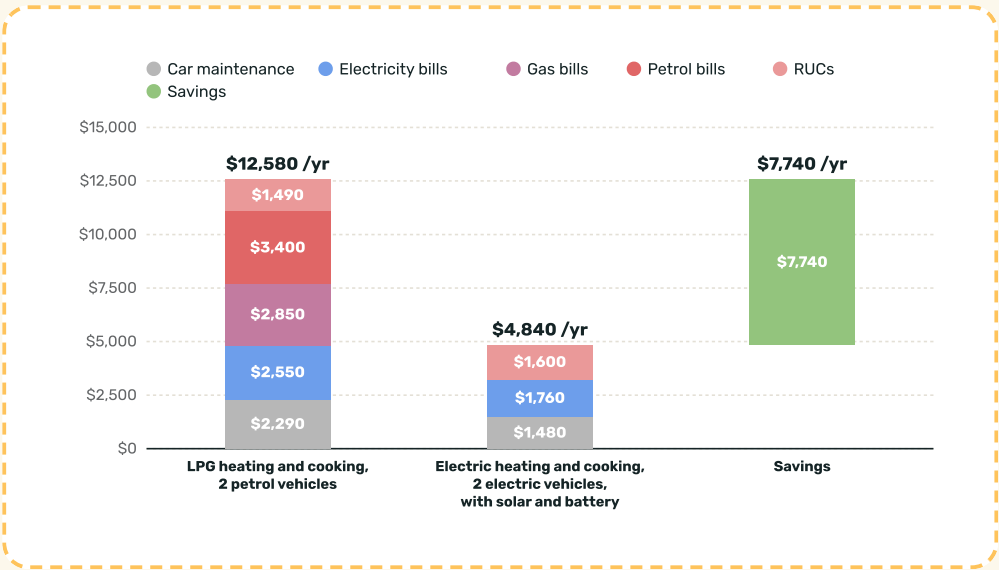
Bills

In a fossil fuel home, energy spending is spread across multiple fuels, each with its own bill, its own price fluctuations, and its own supplier. When a Southland District home electrifies (using electric heating and cooking, driving two EVs, plus solar and batteries), they consolidate their energy into a single source – electricity – meaning **lower bills and far greater control**.

A fossil fuel home in Southland District loses out on \$7,700 a year

An average Southland District home using LPG appliances and petrol vehicles is missing out on around **\$7,700 in savings** on its energy bills every year compared to a home with electrified appliances and vehicles plus a solar and battery system.

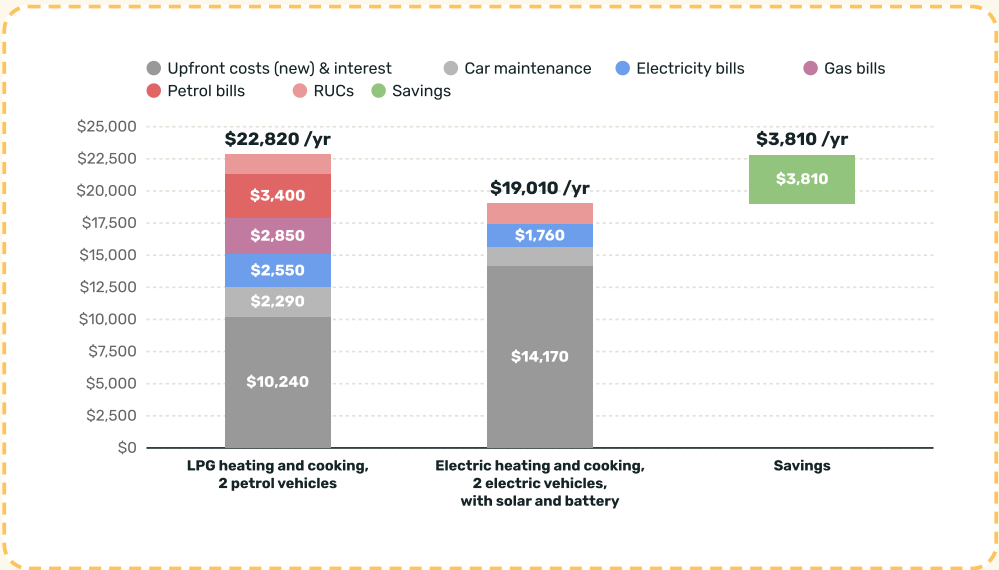
Excludes upfront costs.
Based on 2026 energy prices.



Even with upfront costs, a Southland District home is a net \$3,800 better off every year

With upfront costs and loan repayments included, an all-electric Southland District home is still \$3,800 net better off per year, and a **net \$57,000 better off over 15 years**.

Includes upfront costs and interest at 5.5% p.a.
Based on 15 year average forward energy prices annualised and in 2026 dollars.



Stories from households who have made the switch

Homes across New Zealand are already living the numbers on this page. Read how they electrified, what it cost and what they are saving now, and see the full Southland District report online.

Read more: rewiring.nz/regional-reports/southland-district

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rewiring.nz/regional-reports/southland-district

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Emissions

57,000 tonnes CO₂e
avoided every year

Electrifying Southland District's homes will result in a significant reduction in emissions. That's **the equivalent of 380,000 one-way flights** per passenger from Auckland to Queenstown.

Jobs

440 local jobs
created in Southland District

New local jobs, driven by additional installation labour and the savings flowing through the community. That's 1 job created for every 77 Southland District residents.

Solar and batteries



\$2,600 saved

bill savings per year in Southland District with 9 kW solar and 10 kWh batteries

30+ years

panel lifetime and warranty

15 years

expected battery lifetime, ~10 year warranty

Solar offers strong payback for Southland District homes, even in shaded areas, while improving energy independence.

With solar, the household is paying an **effective electricity price of 12 c/kWh** when financed at 5.5%, compared to the grid rate of **26 c/kWh** (excludes fixed cost).

Solar panels are expected to **last 30+ years**, with warranties of a similar length, meaning the system well outlasts any loan used to finance it. Plus a battery locks in lower energy costs into the future and increases household resilience, keeping essential appliances running during outages.

Your local community voice

Volunteer-run community groups driven by locals for locals are making it easier for people across Southland District to electrify their lives.

Running regular events, leading local advocacy and providing advice to households, these electric communities are your local guide to lower energy bills, lower emissions and greater resilience by going electric.

Find your nearest group: rewiring.nz/communities

**ELECTRIC
COMMUNITIES
AOTEAROA**

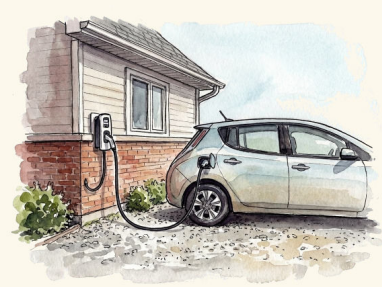
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**Rewiring
Aotearoa**

Electric vehicle



\$12,000 savings

net over 15 years from a petrol to electric medium SUV

25,900

petrol and diesel cars in Southland District

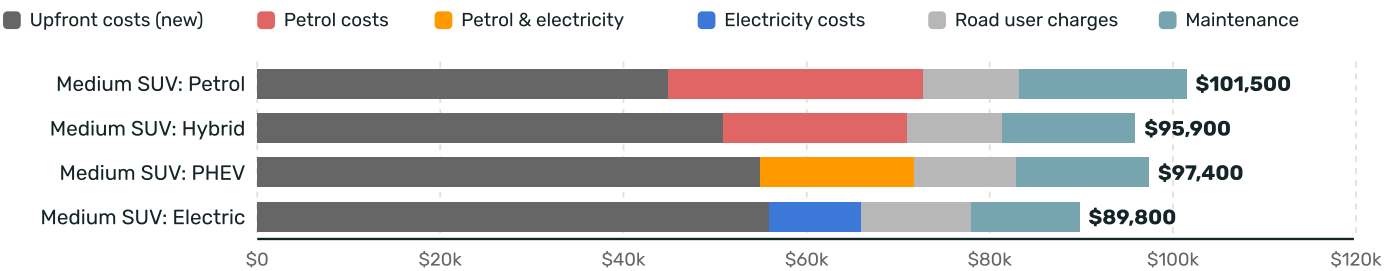
Households in Southland District currently spend **\$130,000 at the pump every day**. Yet EVs are **far cheaper to run**, require little maintenance and aren't exposed to volatile global fuel prices. Plus they're quiet, comfortable and fun to drive!

Southland District drivers cover an average of **170 km per week**: well within the range of a modern EV. Switching from a petrol to an electric medium SUV **saves around \$1,500 every year**, including road user charges. Diesel ute drivers save even more at **\$14,000 net over 15 years**, or \$1,900 every year. Those who need to drive more will save more from switching to electric.

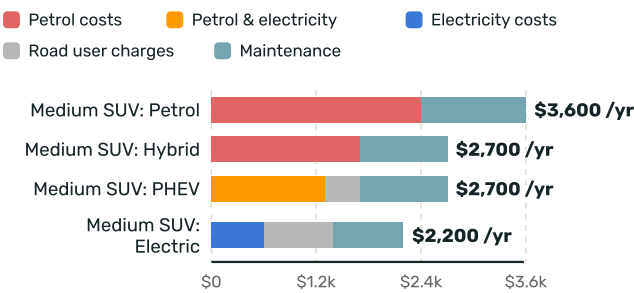
And charging is easy. 80% of EV owners do more than half their charging at home¹. 60% trickle charge using a standard three-pin plug². Charging at home using grid electricity costs **effectively half what you'd spend on petrol or diesel**, and for those with rooftop solar, the savings are even greater. For when you do need to charge on the go, public chargers are available at least every 75km on 97% of New Zealand highways³.

EVs also eliminate tailpipe emissions. Vehicle air pollution costs New Zealand an estimated **\$10.5 billion every year** in health and productivity costs, plus **2,200+ premature deaths and 9,000+ hospitalisations** every year⁴.

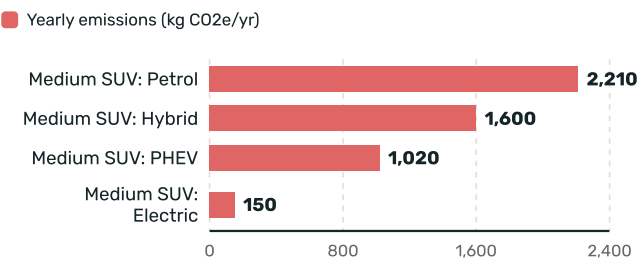
15 Year Lifetime: Medium SUVs



Yearly Bills: Medium SUVs



Yearly Emissions: Medium SUVs



Regarding upfront costs, these are average estimates based on popular recent new car sales in New Zealand. Reliable secondhand EVs typically range from \$12,000 to \$50,000. There are many different models available at your usual car dealers that meet a wide range of needs. Entry-level options starting as low as \$3,000 also exist; with these, as long as you're prepared for limited range, they can offer a low-cost way to get around town.

Sources

¹ Consumer NZ, *New Zealand electric car myths debunked*, 2025 • ² Powerswitch, *The best power plans for charging your EV* • ³ Ministry of Transport, *Charging Our Future: National electric vehicle charging strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand 2023–2035*, 2023 • ⁴ Ministry for the Environment, *Our Air 2024*, 2024

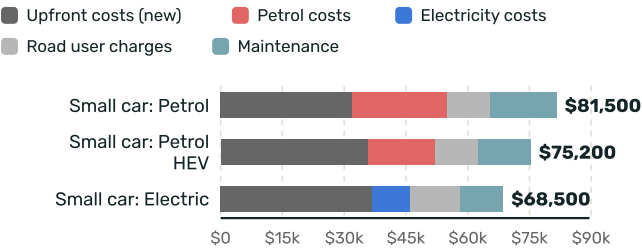
Learn more:

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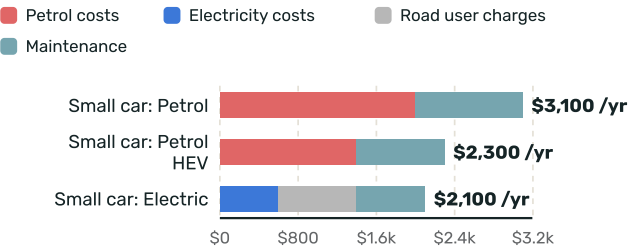
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How much you save by going electric depends on what you drive. Whether it's a medium SUV, small car, ute or van, see how the financial and emissions savings stack up in Southland District.

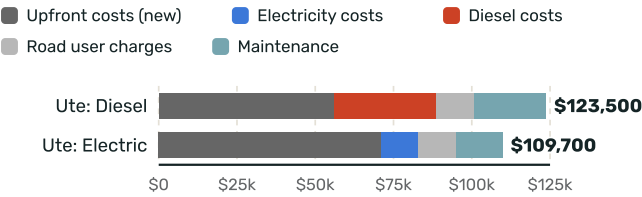
15 Year Lifetime: Small cars



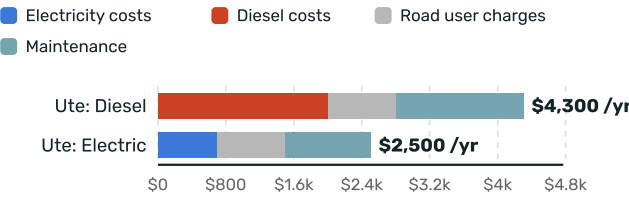
Yearly Bills: Small cars



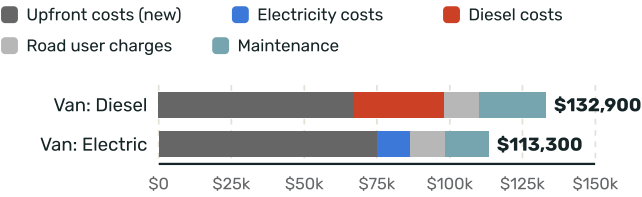
15 Year Lifetime: Utes



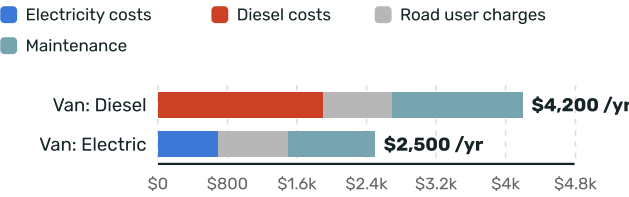
Yearly Bills: Utes



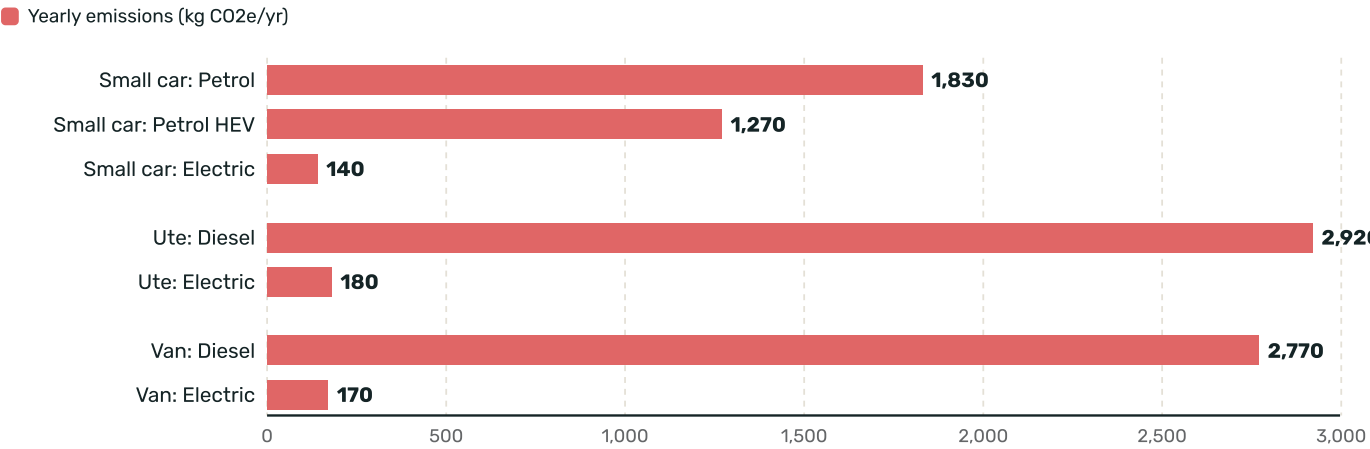
15 Year Lifetime: Vans



Yearly Bills: Vans



Yearly Emissions: Small cars, Utes and Vans



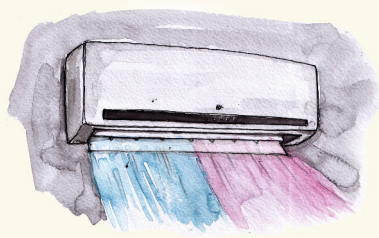
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Heat pump



\$36,000 savings

over 15 year lifetime including upfront costs, compared to flued LPG heater

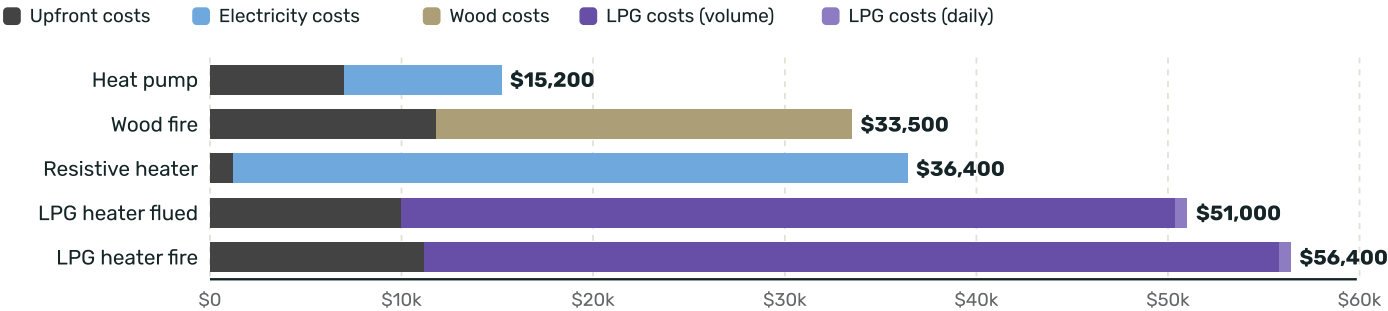
2,300

LPG heaters in Southland District

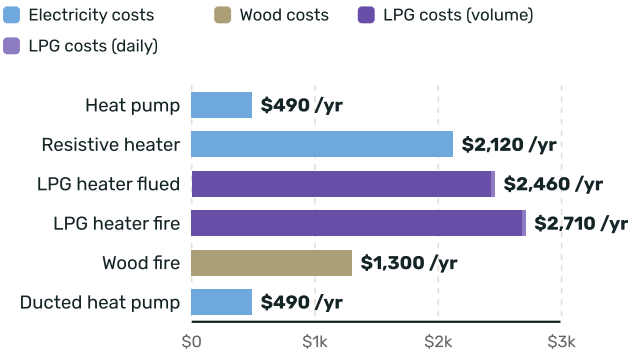
Heat pumps use around **75% less energy** than gas heaters to deliver the same warmth, and, unlike gas, they cool in summer too. Heat pumps also tend to have lower upfront costs compared to their fossil fuel equivalents.

Switching from a flued LPG heater to a heat pump **saves \$33,000 on bills over 15 years**, or \$36,000 including upfront costs. Going electric brings significant savings, and the comfort upgrade is immediate.

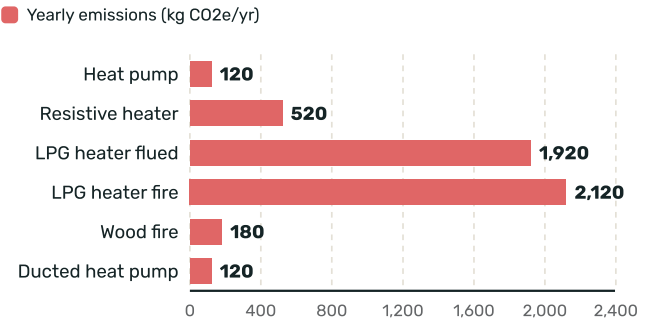
15 Year Lifetime



Yearly Bills



Yearly Emissions

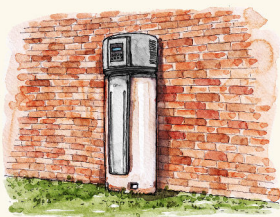


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Hot water heat pump



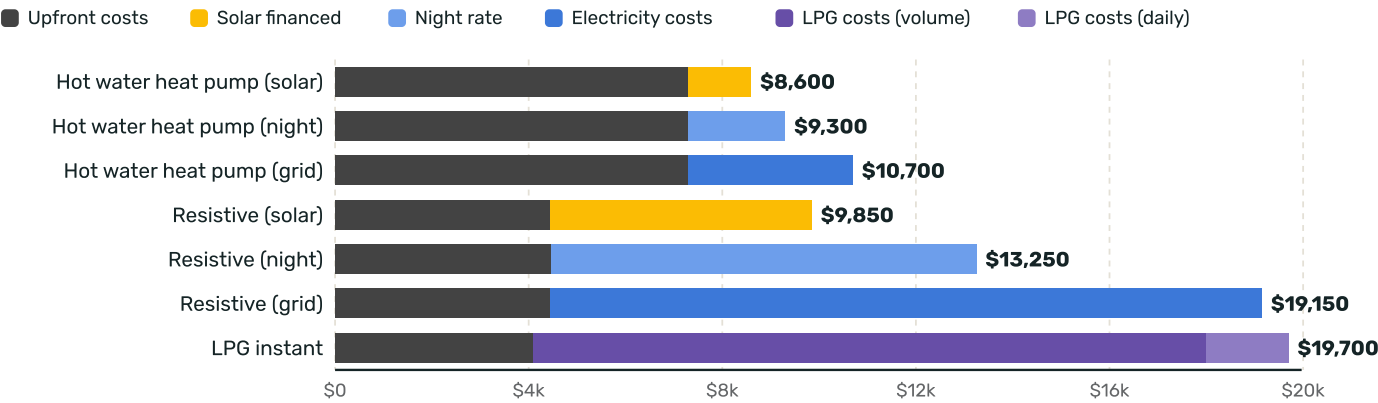
\$9,000 savings
over 15 year lifetime including upfront costs,
compared to LPG instant

1,900
LPG water heaters in Southland
District

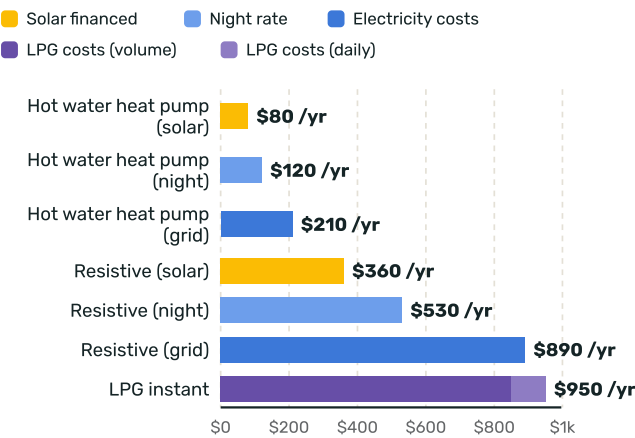
Hot water heat pumps have a higher upfront cost, but deliver **the lowest ongoing energy bills** of any water heating option. In Southland District, switching from LPG instant to a hot water heat pump **saves \$12,000 on bills over 15 years**, or \$9,000 including upfront costs.

Water heating makes up around **30% of an average home's energy load**, making it one of the highest-impact switches a household can make. Hot water heat pumps can also act as a 'thermal battery' where you time it to heat water when electricity is cheapest, or when your solar panels are generating.

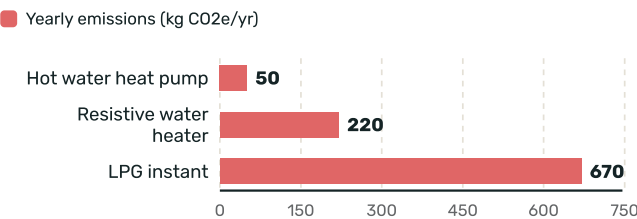
15 Year Lifetime



Yearly Bills



Yearly Emissions



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Induction cooktop



\$1,800 savings

bill savings over 15 years, LPG to induction

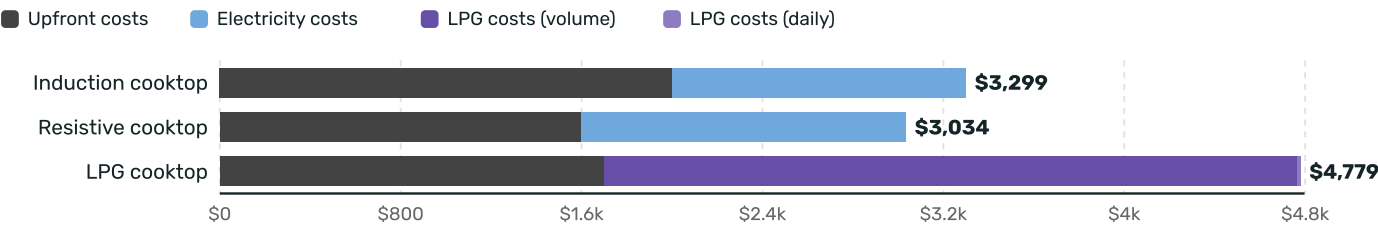
2,000

LPG cooktops in Southland District

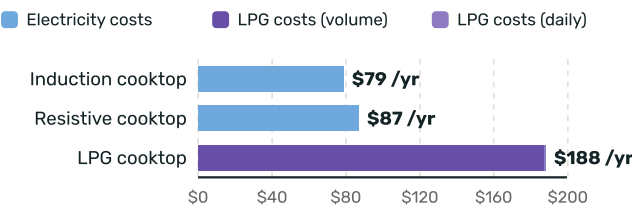
Cooking doesn't use a lot of energy but electric cooking is **lower cost (and much lower emissions)** than cooking with gas. Induction is more expensive upfront than resistive electric cooking, but offers lower ongoing bills. Switching from LPG to induction saves around \$1,800 on energy bills over 15 years.

But the most compelling case for electric might be **health**. Gas cooking releases nitrogen dioxide and other pollutants into the home, linked nationally to **200+ premature deaths, 3,200+ child asthma cases, and \$3.3 billion** in health and productivity costs every year⁴. That's \$9,100 per stove-top in New Zealand⁵.

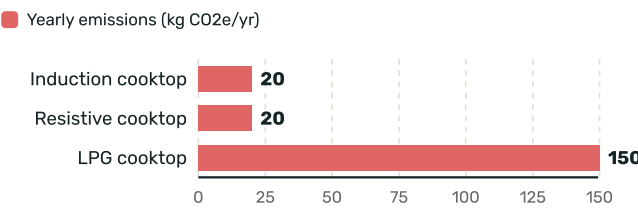
15 Year Lifetime



Yearly Bills



Yearly Emissions



Sources

⁴ Ministry for the Environment, *Our Air 2024*, 2024 • ⁵ EECA, *Indoor combustion in New Zealand homes: health effects and costs*, 2025

About this report

Unless otherwise stated, data in this report is drawn from Rewiring Aotearoa's independent, peer reviewed modelling. Dig into the numbers behind these figures in the *Electric Homes & Vehicles Report 2026* – Rewiring Aotearoa's full analysis of the opportunity of going electric across New Zealand.

Read the full *Electric Homes & Vehicles Report 2026*: rewiring.nz/homes

About Rewiring Aotearoa

Rewiring Aotearoa is an independent non-partisan non-profit working on energy, climate, and electrification research, and supporting communities through the energy transition. Primarily funded by New Zealand philanthropists, we are fiercely independent and completely self-determining in our work.

Learn more:

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