

Home Energy Advisor

NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Welcome!

This is my ✨ *first ever* newsletter! ✨ in which I'd like to share with you the **highlights** of my work, with a sample of my **best blogs, articles, and practical tips** for improving the energy efficiency and carbon footprint of your home. There is something for everyone and I hope you find something interesting or useful.

One of the main reasons for sending out a newsletter via email is that most of the material I share is on Facebook or my website where you may never see it – you might not use Facebook at all, or, the algorithms only put a few of my posts in your feed. So, this email is a way of giving access to all of that material in one place.

I'm sending this to a *wide network* of my past and present clients, colleagues, friends and family. If you don't want to receive future editions, please feel free to unsubscribe. *Alternatively, feel free to forward it on* to anyone you know who may find it of interest.

In case you don't know me, here's the **bio** from my website:



About me: Sebastian Crangle

I'm a sustainability consultant, specialising in home energy-efficiency and energy management.

I support households to lower the energy consumption and carbon footprint of their homes, through implementing practical, customised solutions.

I'm an accredited assessor with the Residential Efficiency Scorecard program, assessing homes and providing comprehensive yet easy-to-understand advice on home improvements to reduce energy demand.

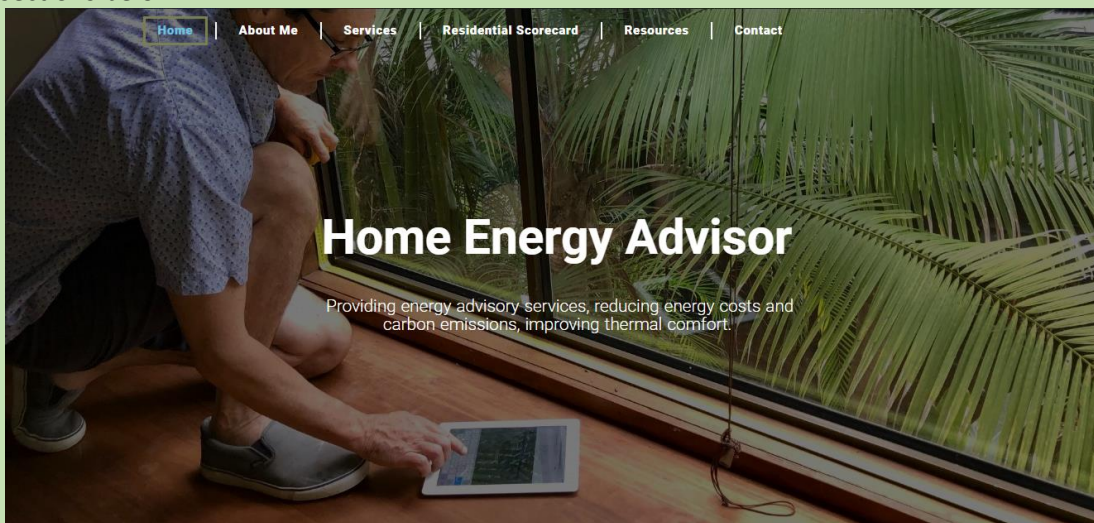
I also deliver solutions, providing a range of home retrofit services including draft proofing, and support households with independent advice on installing solar.

Okay, let's dive in... 😊

A Year of Progressive Change...

It's been an ever-changing year (as for many of us...) as I develop new skills, pursue new lines of work, and adapt my service-offering to client demands. Some of the more significant developments for me included:

- the closure of **Enova Community Energy**, my most consistent client over 4 years, and where I began my career in energy efficiency, first as a volunteer and then as Lead Energy Coach.
- In my **Residential Efficiency Scorecard** assessment work, the uptake from private households continues to be slow- despite my best efforts to make people aware of the service (particularly in Northern NSW) and promote its benefits. In 2021 Scorecard became a national program (originally developed for Victoria) and in 2023 will fall in under the NaTHERS umbrella, for assessing existing homes. While demand for Scorecard starts to grow I've had contract work with the NSW Government (*Office of Energy & Climate Change*) and the Victorian *Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action* (DEECA).
- In late 2022 I finally got a **website!** (homeenergyadvisor.com.au) 🌟 woohoo! 🌟 - thanks to the fabulous Jodie Jankevics, and incentive funding from the Scorecard team at DEECA. I'll include links to various pages of the site in the sections below.



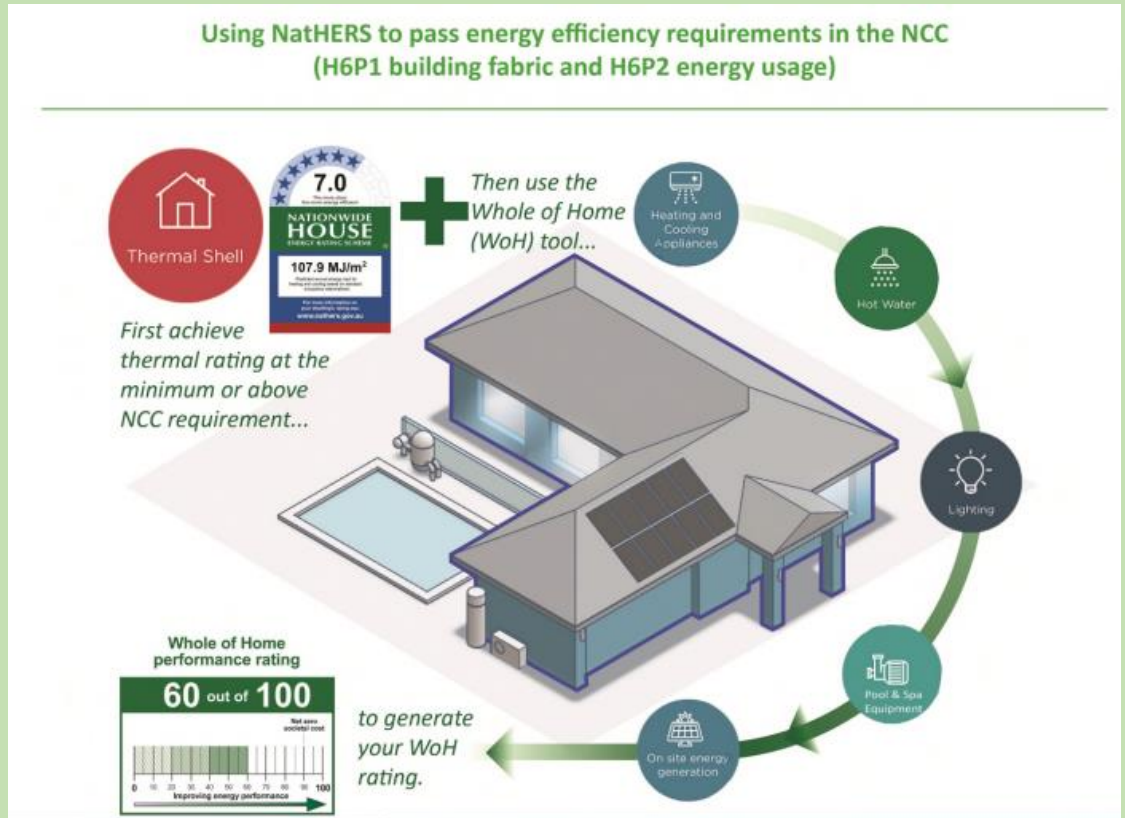
[note: all images in this newsletter are hyperlinked]

- I continue to do some hands-on **practical work relating to saving energy**, such as **solar panel cleaning**, **draught proofing**, **solar site appraisals** and some ceiling insulation jobs. I really enjoy this hands-on work to help balance me from the rest of my work which is highly analytical, and it helps me to feel that my work is resulting in concrete action. You can learn more about these in the **Services** tab of my website.
- [Find out more](#)
- I've had some **great exposure** from presenting on **webinars** (eg Renew Gold Coast, Tweed Council, Good Car Co) and from articles published in a variety of places. I'll include some excerpts and links below.
 - I joined the **Board of Zero Emissions Byron (ZEB)**, a fabulous community organisation with the mission of accelerating Byron Shire's (and beyond!) transition to net zero emissions.



Future developments

I've just taken a huge leap by enrolling in the Cert IV course to become qualified as a **Thermal Performance Assessor**, utilising the new [NaTHERS Whole of Home](#) tool. This will qualify me to assess the designs of new builds (rather than only existing homes) for thermal performance and energy efficiency. As you may have heard, all state governments recently agreed to increase the minimum standard for new builds from 6 stars to 7 stars (out of 10) 🌟🌟. Completing this course consume a big chunk of my time over next 6 months (500+ hrs of course work... 😊), but will supercharge my knowledge for all facets of energy work.



Source: www.nathers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-11/Presentation-NatHERSwhole%20of%20home%20-%20Technical%20Overview

The NaTHERS Whole of Home tool will be ground-breaking as it will now also assess the appliances planned for new builds (and solar) rather than just their thermal performance.

Blogs, Articles & Podcast interviews...

I've had some fabulous exposure in various media in the past 6 months, which not only helps me to build a customer base but also provides education on the value of energy efficiency to the broader community.

Renew Magazine

Late last year I was chuffed to have an article published in Renew Magazine, a highly regarded publication in energy efficiency circles. The article was called 'Energy Saving Rental Makeover', documenting my work to improve a granny flat to make it more low energy, low carbon, and thermally comfortable. Throughout the process I employed the superpowers of the Scorecard modelling tool to measure the impact that each improvement had, whether they be easy and cheap DIY actions, or more expensive technological improvements (eg heat pumps and solar). You can check out the whole article from the Read More button below.

[Read more](#)



Byron Community Centre – Fletcher St Cottage

A very rewarding project that I worked on last year was an energy assessment of Fletcher Street Cottage, a refuge for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Despite being located in a small converted house, their energy consumption (and carbon footprint) was enormous, due mostly to a commercial kitchen and public showers/ laundry. I conducted an appraisal, providing recommendations on how to best spend funding from Enova Energy to make the facility more energy resilient.

[Read more](#)



Bangalow Herald

An article written by my colleague Christobel Munson, Chair of Zero Emissions Byron, on my hot tips for reducing energy use and my personal motivators.

[Read more](#)

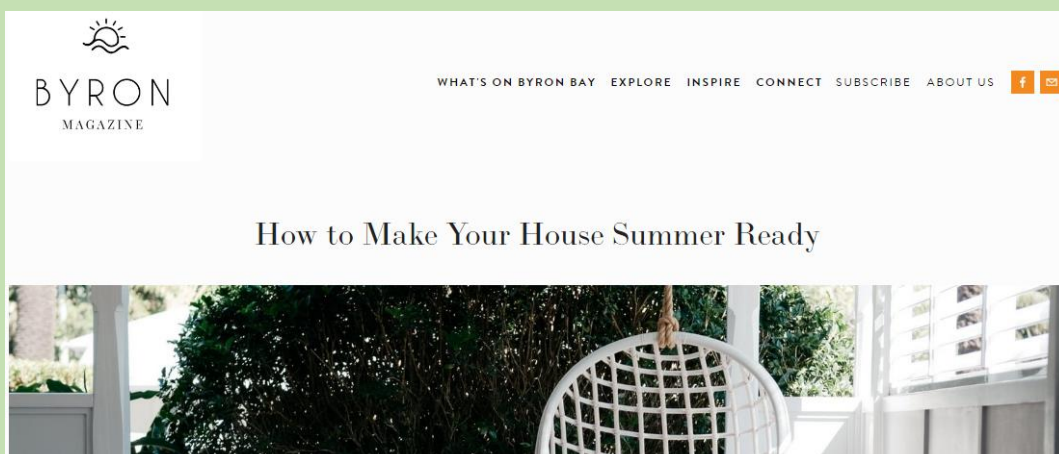


(Aug 2022 edition, pg 22: https://issuu.com/bangalowherald/docs/herald_63)

Byron Magazine

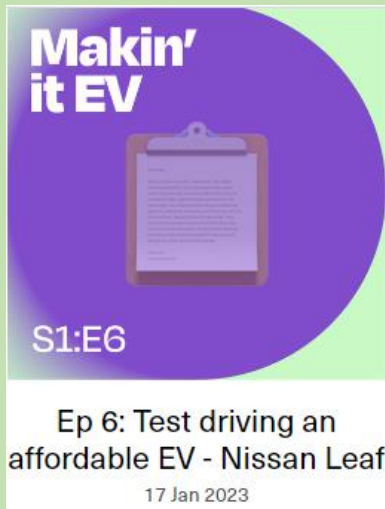
A short piece on getting your home ready for the summer heat:

[Read more](#)



Makin' it EV Podcast

Whilst working for the [Good Car Company](#) providing EV test drives at the Randwick Council Ecoliving Festival, I had the good fortune to meet the creators of a new podcast on Electric Vehicles, '[Makin' it EV](#)'. Not only did they interview me during the test drive/coaching session (Ep 6) but they then invited me back to talk about some of the technical concepts of owning an EV, breaking them down to make them understandable (Ep 7).



Facebook Group: [Sustainable Energy Efficient Homes](#)



When I worked at [Enova Community Energy](#), my colleague/supervisor Bec Talbot set up a Facebook Group for myself and all of the volunteer energy coaches to share information about energy efficiency, and answer questions from the general public. The Group lives on after Enova's demise, with 565 members and myself as the admin. Sadly it isn't the thriving community I had hoped for, with most posts by myself, but there's hope yet.

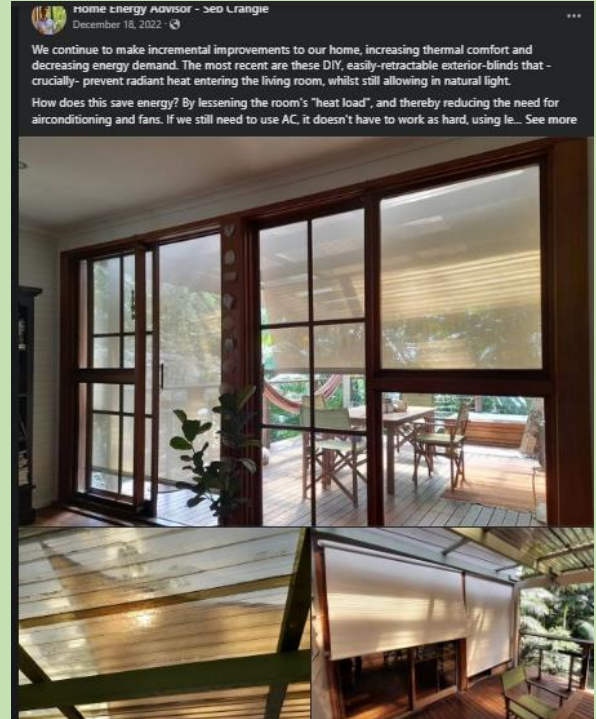
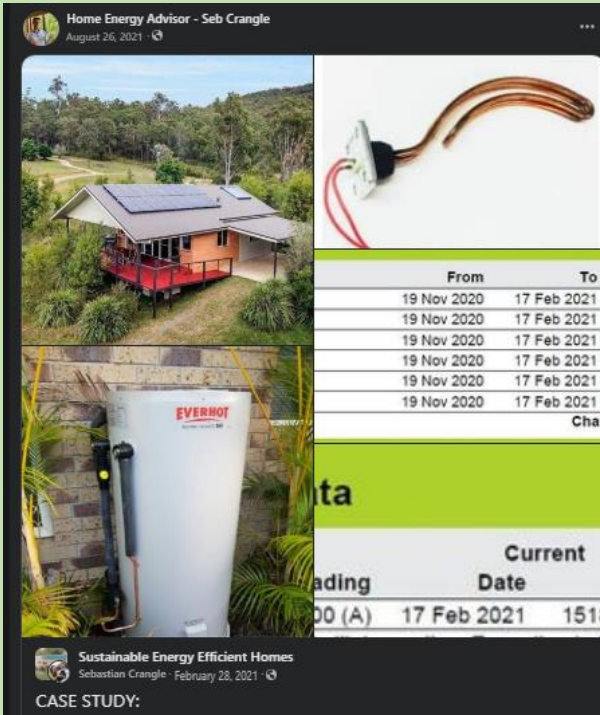


Facebook Page: [Save Energy with Seb](#)

This is my business FB page, where I post the majority of my tips, case studies and information collated from other sites. If you haven't already, please like and follow the page so you receive some of this info in your facebook feed!

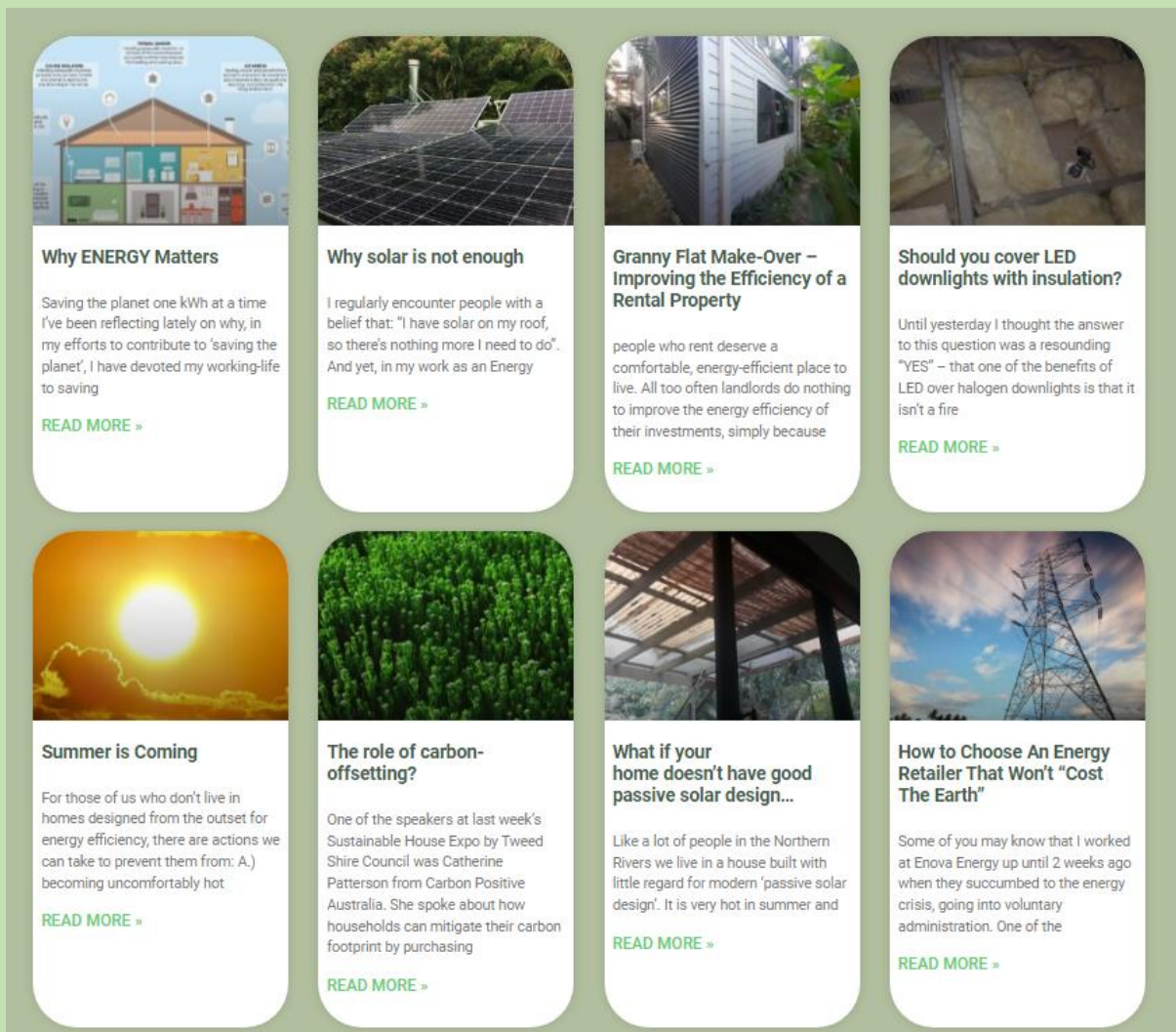


a sample of posts, with clickable links):



But wait... there's more blogs on my website... 🤪

I've written a series of blogs on a wide range of topics relating to energy and energy efficiency. Head on over to the [Resources tab on my website](#) to check them out. Click the screenshot below to take you there.



Okay folks, I reckon that's about enough information for one newsletter! 😊 (it's been a long time coming).

This newsletter is a **resource** you can use to link to the material materials I've produced in other media. Feel free to share it.

If someone has forwarded it to you, you can [subscribe here](#).

Take good care of yourselves,

Seb Crangle
Home Energy Advisor

✉ Email me: seb@homeenergyadvisor.com.au



A Range of Services:



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