

Bend's bills better

Derek Schwarz

BEGA eco neighbourhood development (Bend) is fulfilling its goal of being energy efficient and sustainable.

Country Energy has confirmed that its recent quarterly readings show Bend residents are using around 50 per cent less energy than the average home.

Resident Heidi Brennan said she noticed an immediate difference in her energy consumption after moving to Bend.

"We were previously living in one of the old Bega houses built many years ago from local timber, which are iceboxes in the winter and ovens in the summer," Ms Brennan said.

"Our duplex here is

that I didn't need to use a heater at all this winter."

The properties' north-facing gardens also reduce the need for using clothes driers.

Tennants of the development, which is managed by Community Housing Limited (CHL), take a co-operative approach to decision making and strive to minimise their carbon footprint.

Ms Brennan, who lives at Bend with her two children, said her family was now living in a way she'd always dreamed of.

"I've never lived in a community like this before and it's fantastic," Ms Brennan said.

"There's built-in neighbourhood support and a great sense of shared responsibility for the



• Heidi Brennan (left) and Saresa Andrews have noticed that their energy bills are significantly lower since moving to Bend.

agreement, the process takes time and everyone has learned to be more

one can support."

On top of the energy savings, Ms Brennan said

has improved 100 per cent".

For more information