What is a WattWatchers device?

The Wattwatcher is an energy monitoring device that provides real-time energy data to better understand your electricity usage.

The model we will install in your meter box is the Auditor 6M, which means it can monitor up to 6 unique electrical circuits in your house and transmits data via the mobile network.

The device integrates with dozens of third-party software solutions, which amongst other things can monitor the performance of your solar system and help you manage your energy usage and costs – including automatically selecting the cheapest electricity tariff for the way you use electricity.

The device and installation costs $1,100, which the SuRF project is covering with project funds.

Why do we need WattWatchers to understand the feasibility of microgrids?

The data collected will be processed and analysed by the ANU research team to help gauge how electricity is used within your community – how much is used at what times. This information is critical to informing what energy options – including potentially microgrids – may be suitable for your community. The way energy is used influences what types of energy technologies may be used (such as rooftop solar, neighbourhood batteries, or diesel generators) as well as the size of this infrastructure.

The type of energy data that we're collecting with the WattWatcher – showing the energy usage in five minute intervals – is extremely useful in guiding decision making about technology and infrastructure investments, in microgrids, network upgrades and more.

No such data currently exists for the Eurobodalla. By contributing your data to the SuRF data set you will help inform many energy decisions in the Eurobodalla for years to come.

What can I do with the WattWatcher device?

You can access your electricity data through the Wattwatcher website and/or Wattwatcher mobile phone app. Accessing your data will allow you to:

- See what's happening with the energy in your home.

- Get real-time updates on what electricity you're using and how much you're getting from the grid. If you have solar, you will see how much your system is generating and how much you're sending to the grid.

- Work out what appliances/devices are using the most energy.

- Circuit-level monitoring so you can see what the big energy consumers in your home are. Pinpoint where you can get the most benefit by reducing your energy usage.

- Make sure you're on the best electricity plan (only available through the phone app).

- Upload your electricity bill and WW will analyse and compare with available plans. If you find a better deal, you can switch plans within the app.

You can view your data on the website **https://wattwatchers.app/** Install the mydata.energy to access the data, and you can install the app here: **https://mydata.energy/**

You can view your data online at **https://wattwatchers.app/** and can download the mobile phone app using the link **https://mydata.energy/** or searching for "Wattwatchers MyEnergy" in your phone's app store.

What does the process of installation involve for you?

1. You are selected as part of a broad representation of householders in Eurobodalla in order to understand the diverse energy usage profiles. You will have to sign a consent form (**link here**) or QR code below to proceed.

2. An ANU staff member will email you with some general information about WattWatcher devices; why we want to install them for our project [this brochure]; and request that you send a photo of your house's electricity meter board. This photo will be important for the installer.

3. An ANU staff member will give you a brief call to check whether you have any questions so far.

4. You are contacted by a local electrical company, to organise the installation time.

5. An ANU staff member will call you after the install to check that everything went smoothly.

What happens at the end of the project?

If you wish to have the device removed, you can do so at any time during the project. We will ask you whether you want the device removed at the end of the project, in April 2024. At this point, we will cover costs of removal. After this point, we will not be able to cover the costs of removal (approximate cost is $400).

The Wattwatchers installation includes an app subscription for two years. If you wish to keep having data recorded you will need to pay an annual subscription to Wattwatchers ($60 p.a.) - or you can simply leave the device installed but not transmitting data

How else can I participate in the SuRF project?

Installing a WW device and providing your energy use data to ANU is already a really important contribution to the project, which we are very grateful for. But if you are interested in participating further, please see the following:

Nelligen/Tuross Head residents: We will be holding some workshops in 2023 to explore more about the design features and issues associated with microgrids. Please get in touch with Wendy Russell at **wendy.russell@anu.edu.au** if you are interested in participating (you do not need a WattWatchers device to participate in workshops).

About the Project

The Southcoast μ-grid Reliability Feasibility (SμRF) is a research project exploring the feasibility of micro-grids in regional contexts that face challenges in resilience from events such as bushfires, specifically in the Eurobodalla shire. The project involves a partnership between researchers (Australian National University), a Distributed Network Service Provider (Essential Energy), a technology company (ZepBen) and a community energy group (SHASA). We are interested in learning about the potential for microgrids to meet community's needs from an integrated social, economic and technical perspective.