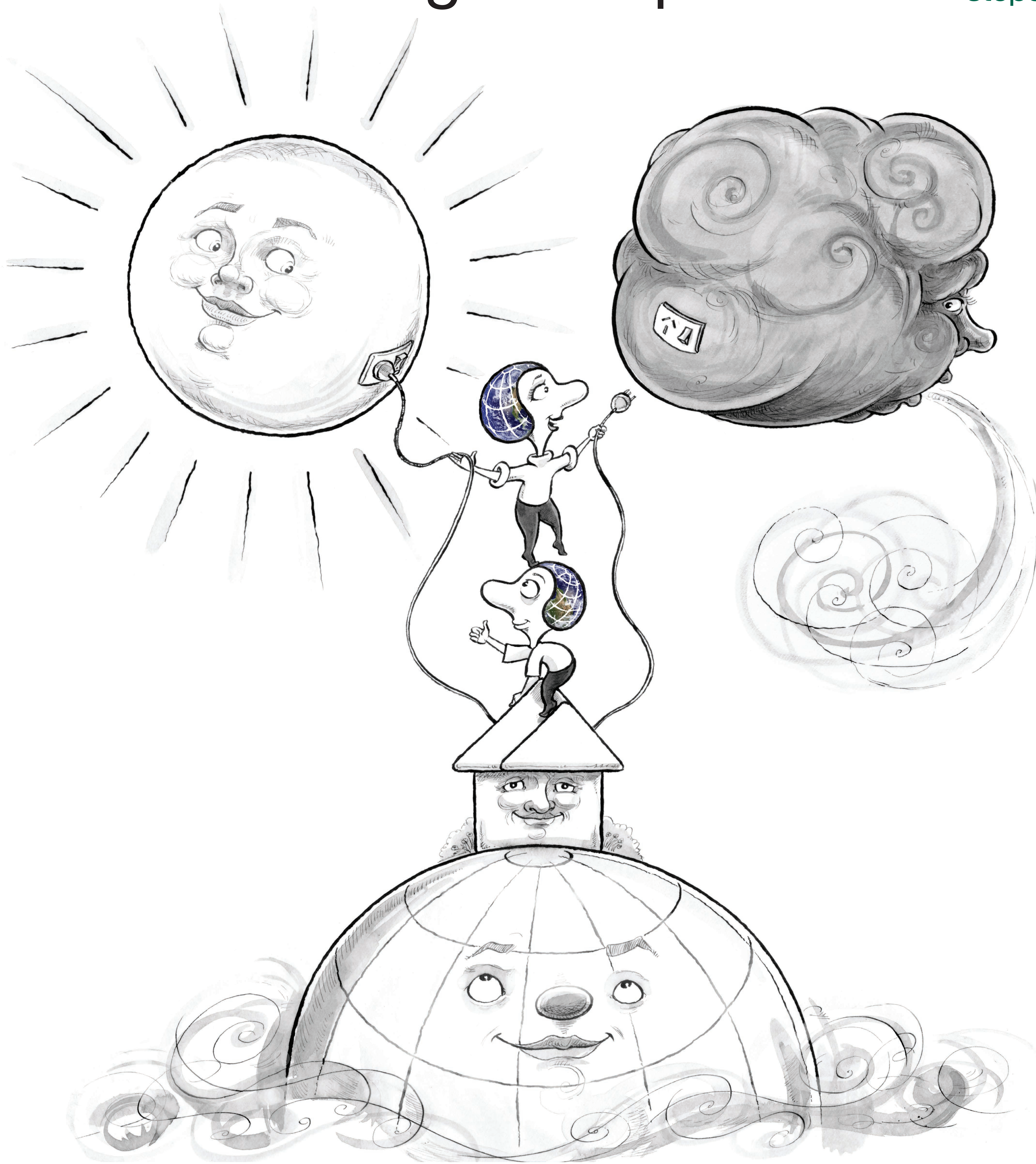
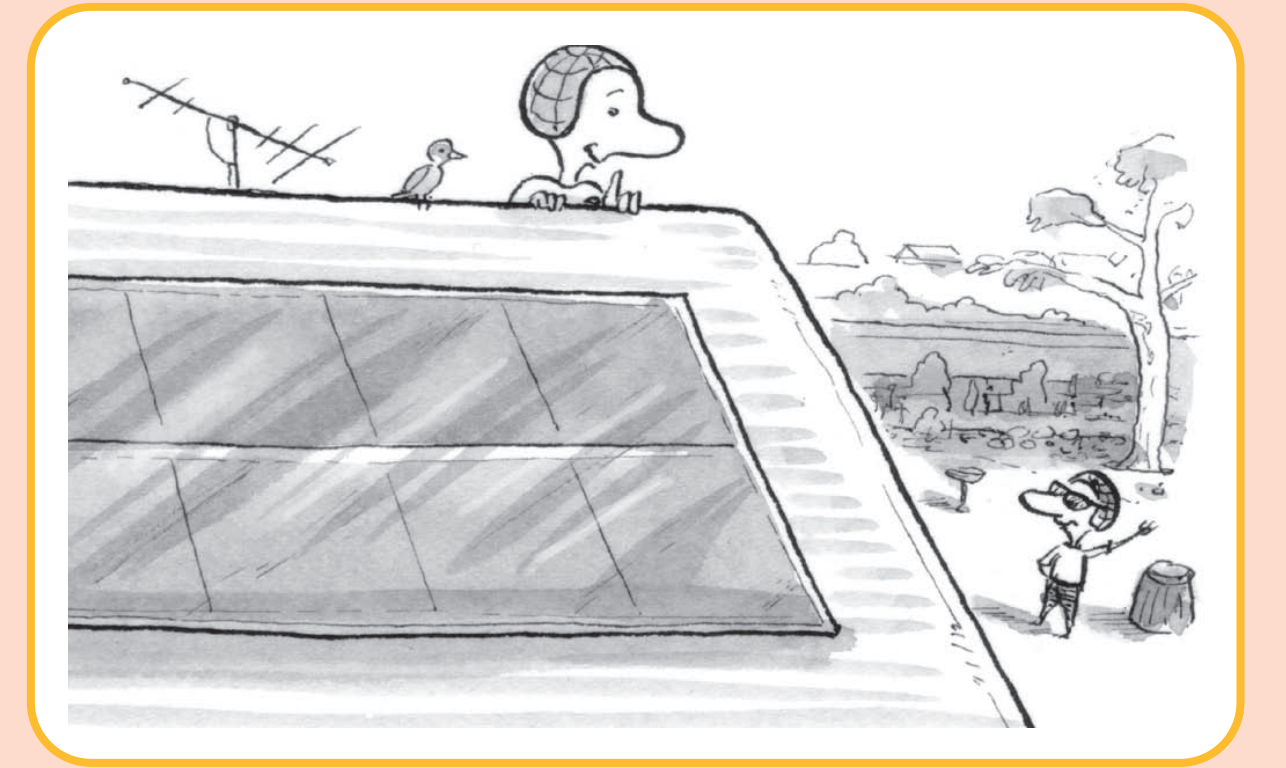


# You've got the power!



## 1 Install Solar Panels



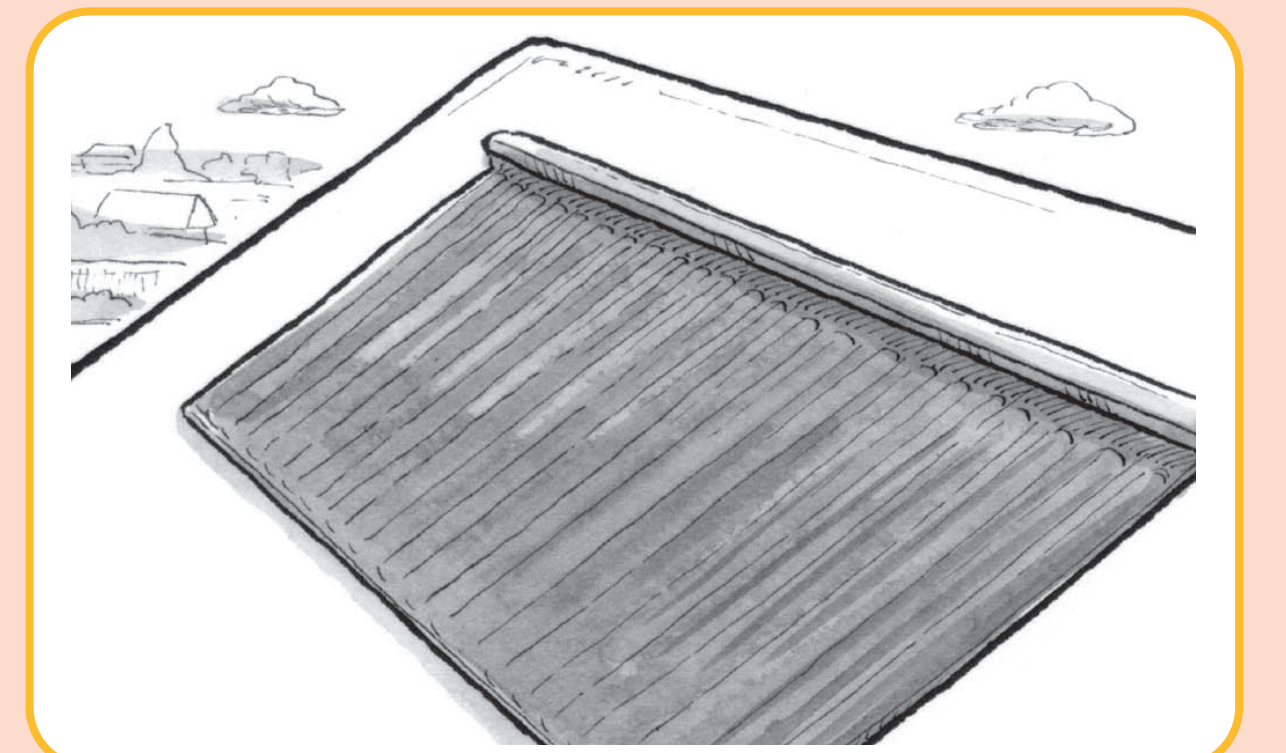
Most homes can generate their own green energy using solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof connected to the electricity grid – you just need some roof space exposed to the north sun. While solar panels may have a high up-front cost (even after rebates), the savings on your electricity bills will pay this off over time, especially as energy prices go up. Even better, you will be credited for any excess solar electricity you send into the grid.

## 2 Use Green Power



Even if you can't get solar panels, any home can be powered by renewable energy by purchasing accredited Green Power from your electricity retailer. They will source wind, solar or other renewable energy equal to the amount you use in your home and feed this into the electricity grid. Every household can choose this, whether you live in an apartment or house and are a renter or owner. Go to [www.greenpower.gov.au](http://www.greenpower.gov.au)

## 3 Install Solar Hot Water



Most homes can also use renewable energy to heat their water. An evacuated tube (or other solar system) on the roof connected to a hot water storage tank will provide hot water for the whole house. A gas or electric booster can act as a back up on very cloudy days. Government rebates are available to reduce the cost of buying the unit. If you currently have electric hot water, replacing it with solar hot water or heat pump is one of the biggest greenhouse savings you can make.

## 4 Install a Heat Pump or 5-Star Gas Hot Water System



If you can't install solar hot water, another great option is a heat pump hot water system. It uses the ambient air warmth (even on a cold day) to heat the water very efficiently (like a reverse refrigerator!). Because it is so efficient it also attracts Federal and State government rebates, so it's a very cheap system to install. Another good option is 5-star instantaneous gas hot water – if you have gas connected to your home you could consider one of these. They are much more energy efficient than electric hot water and almost as good as solar or heat pump!

# Plug into your natural energies.



Watch your Watts!



Barrett House  
Our little house of sustainability

Barrett House is the result of a collaboration between Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra Councils to work together on activities aimed at reducing the community-wide ecological footprint of residents in Sydney's Eastern suburbs. This program has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.