

# A water-wise tale

AS a teenager living through the Lebanese civil war, Laila Najjar learned the true value of water.

"In 1976 we were living in the Bekaa Valley; they shut off the water supply and (for months) we had to walk about a kilometre uphill to get water," said Mrs Najjar, one of about 650 families signed to the Moreland Energy Foundation's Zero Carbon Moreland campaign.

It's a lesson she would never forget and one that has driven the Coburg mother-of-two to do all she can to secure the future for her two children, by making her home more environmentally friendly.

It took Mrs Najjar some time to convince her husband to invest in a dual-flush toilet, hand-held shower head and low-wattage down lights. And she copped a few odd looks for carting buckets of rinse water from the washing machine to the family's fruit trees.

But the slashed water and power bills have now convinced her family.

Mrs Najjar, who has worked with Moreland Energy Foundation teaching local Arabic-speaking families simple steps to reduce their home's carbon footprint, said while community awareness was "definitely growing" there was still a long way to go.

"It's hard to get people to understand the impact of their actions, because they can't see it," she said.

A workshop teaching renters how to make their homes more energy and water efficient will be held tomorrow evening from 6.45pm at Brunswick Town Hall.

Bookings: 9385 8517.

■ This is the second in a series of Leader articles in the coming weeks on Moreland Energy Foundation-run campaigns to reduce the municipality's carbon footprint. Next week: Moreland's migrant communities get on board the Green Town program. See [morelandsolarcity.org.au](http://morelandsolarcity.org.au) for more.



Laila Najjar collects used bath water for her garden. N51CJ325



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