

CottonInfo: Connecting growers with research

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## What's your energy use costing you?

We know energy's one of your fastest growing on-farm costs... but did you know **there are ways to reduce both your energy use and the impact on your bottom line?**

Monitoring and assessing your electricity and diesel use is the key. **Monitoring** can be as simple as using [EnergyCalc Lite](#) to estimate use and costs, and track these over time.

**Assessing** your use via an on-farm energy audit can also identify energy costs and savings, and see where you sit against industry benchmarks. **This is where our CottonInfo team can help:** our regional development officers are conducting energy assessments and audits on-farm to help you identify areas to improve your energy efficiency, and reduce your costs. Talk to [one of our team](#) today to request your on-farm energy assessment.

### **Don't just take our word for it though!**

Check out what growers Ian and Anne Brimblecombe, St George and Scott Morgan, Gunnedah, have done on their farms to improve their energy use efficiency. These growers will feature at the **Big Day Out** field days at St George and Gunnedah this month (see below for more details!).



St George growers Ian and Anne Brimblecombe installed solar panels which generate 100kW of electricity in response to concerns about their rising energy costs (about 10 percent per year) and climate change.

Their 400 x 250-watt solar panels will soon be joined by a supplementary bank of panels which will enable a 70kW fixed-speed pump to be powered by solar alone on sunny days. Plus, they're also considering floating solar panels.

[Read Ian and Anne's energy story here.](#)



Gunnedah farmer Scott Morgan has slashed the amount of money he spends on electricity used to irrigate cotton on 'Kensal Green' by investing in solar and by reducing the amount of energy he uses to pump water for his crops.

He has installed a travelling irrigator fed by a 2km pipeline (eliminating the need for two lift pumps); replaced a fixed-speed pump with a variable-speed unit on one of his two bores; and installed a 9.6kW solar array.

[Read Scott's energy story here.](#)

## **Event alert! Big Day Out - St George and Gunnedah**

The Big Day Out field days will take place at **St George (Tuesday 24 February, 2-6pm)**, and **Gunnedah (Wednesday 25 Feb, 1pm onwards)**.

The Big Day Outs will look at energy use efficiency and alternative energy, and feature AgriRisk high achiever of the year for 2014, Brendon Warnock.

They are run by CottonInfo with support from CottonInfo partners CRDC, Cotton Australia and CSD, and funding from the Department of Industry and Science and the Australian Government.

**For full event details, please [click here for St George](#) and [here for Gunnedah](#).**

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