

GOODGRID

MERENDA PARK P S INFO GUIDE



HELP EARN REWARDS FOR OUR SCHOOL THIS SUMMER - BY DOING VERY LITTLE

WE'RE LOOKING FOR FAMILIES IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY TO JOIN AUSNET SERVICES' GOODGRID PROGRAM

Mernda Park Primary School is helping AusNet Services (who manage the poles and wires supplying our community – regardless of which retailer you buy power from) to help keep our community's power supplies secure. We can do this by using a bit less power during peak periods, and earn cash payments for the school.

About electricity peaks

The times when the electricity network is operating near full capacity are called peak events. These only occur five to eight times a year – typically on weekdays from December to the end of March, between 4pm and 9pm. In the program, these occasions are called "GoodGrid Events".

What do GoodGrid participants have to do?

Not very much! During GoodGrid Events, AusNet Services will contact GoodGrid participants and ask them to reduce their electricity use for a short time - no more than four hours. This is just a matter of managing the way that electrical appliances are used, or perhaps even planning a trip to the shops, movies, or a relative's house to coincide with a peak event. If your power usage is less than it would otherwise have been, you'll earn a \$15 reward from AusNet Services.

When you register for GoodGrid, you can advise whether you want to receive that money yourself, or whether you are willing to donate it to Mernda Park Primary School. We're hoping plenty of our families will register for GoodGrid – and agree to donate their rewards to the school!

Please note: GoodGrid participants are not obliged to reduce power use during GoodGrid Events. But if you do, you'll earn a reward from AusNet Services.

How much will GoodGrid participants receive?

You'll receive \$15 if your usage during a GoodGrid Event is less than it would have been otherwise. So over the summer, if you reduced your electricity usage in all of the GoodGrid Events, you would earn \$120, plus be in the draw to win a \$1,000 RACV resorts voucher.

After each GoodGrid Event, AusNet Services will calculate whether or not you successfully reduced your electricity use through a formula based on your recent power use during the same hours over several similar hot days. They'll let you know how you went after each Event, and also send you an overall report at the end of the summer (after the end of March).



Benefits to our school

In recognition of our involvement, AusNet Services has promised to donate \$500 to Mernda Park Primary School. And if we got 50 GoodGrid participants who saved power on five occasions over this summer and pledged their rewards to us, we would earn a further \$3,750 - a very useful sum!

How are GoodGrid participants paid?

The amount you earn from each GoodGrid Event will add up over the summer. After the end of the March, AusNet Services will send a cheque for the full amount – to you or to the School.

How will we know when a GoodGrid Event occurs?

This is easy. You'll be notified by text message the day before a GoodGrid Event is expected. AusNet Services will then confirm that it will be a GoodGrid Event on the day itself, before it happens. You'll also be notified by text message at the start and end of each event. As GoodGrid events will almost certainly be on hot summer afternoons, you'll have a good idea when one is approaching.

How do we reduce electricity use during GoodGrid Events?

AusNet Services will teach GoodGrid participants about easy ways to reduce power use during GoodGrid Events. You'll learn some useful information about appliance running costs, so you'll be better placed to make decisions that could save you money all the time.

How will we know how much power we are using?

You won't be able to tell how much you are using in real time. But if you register for AusNet Services' myHomeEnergy portal, you will be able to see your usage about every six hours.

AusNet Services will calculate and advise you within two business days of the GoodGrid Event whether you reduced your energy use below what it would otherwise have been.

Who can join?

Anyone living in the postcodes 3752 and 3754 is welcome to participate - regardless of whether you are a school parent or not.

Why does the GoodGrid program matter?

To ensure a reliable power supply, an electricity network must be able to handle peak periods, when the community as a whole is using large amounts of electricity. These peak events only occur a few times each summer for a few hours each.

It can cost consumers a great deal of money to build the network to meet the high demand for power on these few hours a year. It's much cheaper for the network operator and communities to work together to reduce their energy use in peak periods, so in the long run it will help keep power bills down. It also means there's less chance of demand-related faults (like blown fuses), making those hot days uncomfortable or even unsafe for vulnerable members of the community.

AusNet Services and other Victorian electricity distributors are running a range of programs this summer to reward customers for helping to achieve these goals.

They offer win-win opportunities for all participants – and for Mernda Park Primary School and the rest of the community as well.

Register now at:
[ausnetservices.com.au/
goodgrid/schools](https://ausnetservices.com.au/goodgrid/schools)

