POWER BUDDY
INDEPENDENT · NZ

NEW BUILD ONE-PAGER

For your builder, electrician and plumber — the cheap-to-do-now energy decisions that quietly cost homeowners thousands later.

Kia ora. The homeowner asked Power Buddy — New Zealand's independent home-energy advisor — to summarise the energy decisions they'd like factored into this build. None of these are unusual; they're the modern Kiwi standard. Most cost almost nothing while the framing is open and save the homeowner thousands across the life of the home. Tick what's included and flag anything that's a problem so we can talk it through.

STAGE 1 — DESIGN

Lock in before consent

- [ ] Site oriented for north-facing living areas (winter sun)
- [ ] Roof has clear north-facing pitch suitable for solar PV
- [ ] Insulation specified above NZ H1 minimums (ceiling, walls, floor)
- [ ] Double-glazed thermally-broken aluminium or timber joinery
- [ ] Slab-edge insulation included on the structural drawings

STAGE 2 — PRE-SLAB

Lock in before the concrete pour

- [ ] Underfloor heating loops laid in the slab (if specified)
- [ ] Slab edge insulation continuous around the perimeter
- [ ] Conduit runs under the driveway / paths for future EV / solar feeds
- [ ] Plumbing rough-in allows for a heat pump hot water cylinder location

STAGE 3 — FRAME & WIRE

Lock in before the gib goes on

- [ ] 20 mm solar-ready conduit from roof space to switchboard
- [ ] 32 mm EV pre-wire conduit from switchboard to garage wall
- [ ] 3-phase supply to the switchboard (or signed-off as not required)
- [ ] Spare ways and labelled spaces in the switchboard for solar + EV breakers
- [ ] Heat pump indoor unit locations agreed (head height, condensate run)
- [ ] Hot water cylinder cupboard sized for a heat pump cylinder
- [ ] Bathroom / laundry extract fans ducted outside, not into the roof

STAGE 4 — FIT-OUT

Lock in before handover

- [ ] Heat pump correctly sized for the home (not over-spec'd)
- [ ] Hot water: heat pump cylinder preferred; gas not installed
- [ ] Cooktop: induction (electric ring) preferred over gas
- [ ] LED lighting throughout, dimmable on living-area circuits
- [ ] Power retailer chosen and switched on before move-in

Quick wins that cost almost nothing now

- 20 mm conduit from roof space to switchboard (future solar)
- 32 mm conduit from switchboard to garage wall (future EV charger)
- 3-phase supply to the switchboard (cheap before the road is sealed)
- Spare ways and labelled spaces in the switchboard for solar / EV breakers
- Hot water cylinder cupboard sized for a heat pump cylinder (not just resistance)