Sustainability Corner

Boiled Dry

How often do you boil the jug for coffee or tea?
Do you fill it up every time, or just heat the amount of water that you need? It seems that most of us do the first.
Most modern jugs hold about 1.8 litres of water. Let us say that, on average, we boil 1.5 litres each time.
At current electricity costs of around $0.20/kWh, it costs 3 cents to boil that jug.
Drinking with a friend? You will actually use about 500ml of the water you just boiled.
This all sounds pretty trivial, until you think about the following.
Boil the jug 4 times a day. In a year you will heat 1400 litres of water that you don't use, costing you about $28.
No big deal? Then multiply through by 1.5 million households (there are actually 1.6 million households in NZ).
That works out to $42 million given to the power companies every year for nothing, and 8.4 million kWh of wasted energy.
Here is a small action with a big effect: train your family to use the gauge on the side of the jug, and fill only to demand. Store anything left over in a thermos and use it later.

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