

The boss of Eskom uses a gas stove.

Johannesburg - If you visit Eskom boss Brian Dames at his home during winter, he is likely to point out one of his proudest material possessions: his green swimming pool.

Dames is one of the faces of SA's energy and electricity sector. And, with new murmurings about load shedding and a tough, dark winter, City Press asked him how he puts his money where his mouth is.

He says his biggest electricity consumption is lighting, most of which he uses for security.

In a bid to save power at his Joburg home, Dames has installed two solar geysers and insulated his ceiling.

In winter, he says, he doesn't use under floor heating to warm up his home.

Instead, he and his family use wood-burning fireplaces and gas heaters. All cooking in his home is done on a gas stove and public enemy number one is the kettle – it's been banned.

If Dames fancies a cup of tea, he boils water on the gas stove.

And his green pool? He decommissions the pool pump to save power during the chilly winter months when having a sparkling blue pool makes little sense.