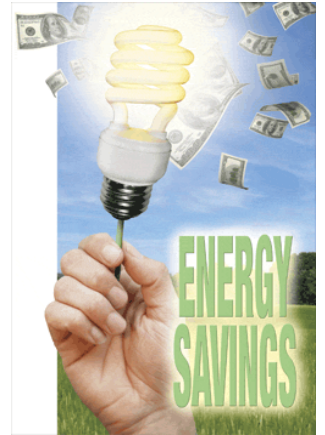




TOP TEN ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

Taking steps to reduce your energy consumption is becoming more important every year as the cost of living continues to escalate, the average house size continues to expand, and computers, big-screen TVs, cell phone chargers, and other technologies that did not exist just 10 or 20 years ago continue to make their way into our homes and businesses. Start making a difference in your energy consumption (and your wallet) today with these simple and effective energy-saving tips.



Conserve: Change your habits and save big

1 Turn it off! Turn lights, appliances, and electronics off when they are not in use. Today's larger homes have a lot of rooms where operating TVs, radios, computers, and lights may be forgotten. For outdoor lights, install motion sensors with a combination of photo sensors to turn lights on only when needed.

2 Don't just turn it off; unplug it! According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 75% of the electricity used to power electronics in the average home is consumed while the products are turned off. To rid your home of this "phantom load," unplug electronic devices (such as VCRs, televisions, game consoles, stereos, computers, and kitchen appliances) when they are not in use, or use a power strip to cut all power to these devices. Also be sure to unplug cell-phone, lap-top, and battery chargers; they continue to draw a small amount of power even when they are not connected to the devices they are designed to charge.



3 Adjust your thermostat. Install a programmable thermostat. In the winter, set it at 68 – 70°F when you're home, and 62 °F when you're away or in bed. In the summer, set it at 76 – 78°F when you're home, and 82 °F when you're away and running the air conditioner. As you program your thermostat, remember to give a little time to warm or cool the whole house to your comfort level. Regular replacement of filters can save you an additional \$5 or more per month.



4

Use Fans. According to Energy Star, you can raise summer air-conditioner settings by 3 to 5 degrees with no loss of comfort if you add ceiling fans. Switch reversible fans in winter to pull cool air upward and force warm air back down.



5

Control direct sunlight through windows. In the summer, block it using blinds, screens, film, outdoor awnings, vines, and trees. In cold weather, reverse your thinking. As long as you control glare, the sun can bring welcome warmth in winter.

6

Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes. Reducing the amount of laundry and dishes you wash from six to three times per week is a more efficient use of energy. Try washing most clothes in cold water and always rinse in cold. Clothes washed in cold water fade less, have fewer wrinkles and may save up to a hundred dollars annually on water heating.



7

Don't overdry your clothes. Today many clothes dryers have energy-saving moisture sensors that shut off the heat when the clothes are dry. If you don't have this feature, test a few loads, and remember how long they take to dry. Running a typical dryer for 15 minutes less per load can save you up to \$35 per year.

8

Get rid of that old refrigerator or freezer. These old appliances can add up to 15 percent to your electric bill. You can save energy in your regular fridge by keeping the condenser coils clean, placing it in a well ventilated, relatively cool spot, and keeping it full but not overloaded. If your freezer is usually empty, you can improve cold airflow by storing some extra ice.



9

Get CFL. Replace at least five incandescent light bulbs with high-efficiency, compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's). Energy Star labeled CFLs use 75 percent less energy and last six to ten times longer than standard incandescent bulbs do.

10

Perform basic weatherization to keep out cold drafts. This includes repairing holes and cracks and weather stripping or caulking around doors and windows. It also includes plugging leaks and fixing gaps in insulation on ducts and pipes.

These are just a few things you can do to conserve energy, there are many other ways to cut your power consumption. From Energy Star qualified appliances to shorter showers, saving energy is saving money. By reducing our consumption of energy, we can delay construction of new power generation in the region.

