

Money-saving tips



Simple ways
to help you save

Talk to all family members about the importance of energy conservation. Reducing your electric usage can be simple and the results can be far-reaching. On a personal level, you save money. Regionally, we all benefit because reducing your electric use can delay the need for new power plants and decrease our reliance on higher cost power generation during summer months.

Visit www.kilowatchers.com for money-saving services

- **Subscribe to LES' em • Powered™ e-newsletter.** This free monthly communication is filled with simple ways to take charge of your energy use and costs.
- **Home Energy Analyzer** is a do-it-yourself program which provides an estimate of your monthly energy use.
 - Compare your estimated monthly usage to **"Average Energy Use."**
 - Get **"Ways to Save"** tips to lower your energy bill.
 - Estimate your **"Carbon Footprint."**
- **Heating System Comparison Calculator** compares the cost to

operate various heating systems, as well as the cost to operate the same system under different rate structures, or rate discount programs.

- **Cooling System Comparison Calculator** compares the cost to operate various cooling systems, as well as the cost to operate the same system under different rate structures, or rate discount programs.
- **Appliance Calculator** provides an estimate of how much energy you use for the electric and natural gas appliances in your home.

Year-round energy saving tips

Heating and cooling accounts for the most energy usage in a home. Dirt and neglect are the number one causes of heating and cooling system failure. Keep your equipment and home in peak performance with regular maintenance.

- **Insulate.** Make sure the attic roof, walls and floors are properly insulated and have enough ventilation.
- **Caulk and seal.** Seal air leaks by caulking and weather-stripping

windows, doors and building penetrations.

- **Replace the furnace air filter** regularly.
- **Remove obstructions** from vents e.g. furniture, carpeting or drapes.
- Close fireplace damper unless in use.
- **Dress in appropriate clothing** for comfort: sweater for winter warmth, short-sleeve shirt for summer heat.
- **Change the direction of your ceiling fan.** The fan should run clockwise so that air is drawn upward to circulate warm air during the winter. It should run counter-clockwise during the summer. Use fans in occupied rooms which allow you to set the thermostat for more comfort.
- **Don't place lamps or TVs near your thermostat.** Heat from these appliances is sensed by the thermostat and could cause your furnace to shut off sooner than is needed for adequate warmth.

Air conditioning

- **Service the air conditioner** every spring by a licensed air conditioning contractor.
- **Set the thermostat** no lower than 78 degrees.
- **Close shades and drapes on sunny sides of your home** during the day, especially during the afternoon on the west side of the house where the sun is the most intense.
- **Set the dehumidifier** to the desired relative humidity level between 45 and 55 percent.

Heating

- **Service the furnace** every fall by a licensed heating contractor.
- **Set the thermostat** no higher than 68 degrees.
- **Do not set back a heat pump's thermostat** more than two to four degrees. The supplemental back-up heat source may come on to bring the space back to temperature; it is generally more expensive to operate.

Water heating

- **Set the water heater thermostat** at 120°F.
- **Take showers** instead of baths.
- **Use a low-flow shower head.**
- **Repair leaking** or dripping hot water faucets.
- **Wash full loads**, but don't overload the dishwasher. Use "air dry" or turn off the control after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so dishes dry faster.
- **Use cold water rinse**, wash only full laundry loads and line-dry your clothes.



Purchase ENERGY STAR® products

The purchase price of an appliance is only one expense that you will pay. Look for the ENERGY STAR symbol on appliances that can save you 15–40 percent on operating costs. For example, refrigerators may have the same capacity and features, but an ENERGY STAR-qualified refrigerator can save you 20 percent on your operating costs.

Visit www.energystar.gov for more than 50 types of products such as office equipment, appliances and home electronics that qualify for the ENERGY STAR.

Major kitchen appliances

- **Don't place refrigerators or freezers in unconditioned spaces** such as the garage. Evaluate whether the second appliance is worth the extra cost to operate.
- **Clean refrigerator or freezer condenser coils** once a year to eliminate dirt which reduces efficiency.
- **Defrost the freezer** when more than one-quarter inch of ice builds up.

- **Keep the refrigerator temperature** between 36–38°F for the fresh food compartment; 0–5°F for the freezer section. If you have a separate freezer, it should be kept at 0°F.
- **Use heat-generating household appliances in the morning or late evening** when outdoor temperatures are at their low points during the summer, or use a microwave or grill outdoors.

Home electronics

- **Plug electronics into a power strip so you can easily power off all equipment** when not in use. Set-top boxes, DVD players and VCRs have a digital clock display that uses electricity even when the equipment is not in use. If you don't use your TVs or DVD players, etc., you may want to consider unplugging them.
- **Program your monitor and computer** to enter low-power states when sitting idle. Free software is available on www.energystar.gov, enter "wizard" in the search box. If you must leave your computer on for network applications, turn off the monitor.
- **Unplug battery chargers or power adapters** when equipment (MP3 players, cell phones, etc.) is not in use.



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