LES WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

With more people remaining at home for extended periods of time because of the COVID-19 pandemic, households may see an unexpected increase in their monthly energy usage. LES understands the increasing financial hardships facing families and businesses and offers these helpful, room-by-room tips to reduce home energy costs.

FAMILY ROOM / LIVING ROOM
- Lower the brightness on all TV screens.
- Use energy-saving features that may be available on your electronic devices.
- Plug all personal electronics in a power strip and turn off the power strip when devices are not in use.
- Always be sure to turn off lights, fans and electronics when you leave the room.

KITCHEN
- Run the dishwasher only when you have enough dirty dishes accumulated for a full load.
- Turn off your dishwasher's dry cycle and let your dishes air dry.
- Dust off the top of your refrigerator and coils to keep it running efficiently and cool.
- Don't place refrigerators and freezers in unconditioned spaces, such as the garage. Evaluate whether the second appliance is worth the extra cost to operate.
- Use small appliances such as toaster ovens, electric pressure cookers, microwave ovens, or convection ovens for small meals rather than your large stove or oven. They will save energy and can save on cooling costs because they generate less heat.
- Don't open the oven door while food is cooking.
- Cover pots when cooking and cook by time and temperature guides.
- Cook several meals at the same time.

BATHROOM
- Check the temperature on your water heater and set it to 120 degrees.
- Take showers instead of baths.
- Use a low-flow shower head.
- Turn off the exhaust fan 15 minutes after your shower.

LAUNDRY ROOM
- Use cold water in your clothes washer. Most newer washers are designed for cold water.
- If dryer has an auto dry option (moisture sensing), use that option instead of timed dry.
- Clean the lint trap between loads — this improves air circulation and increases the efficiency of the dryer.

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD
- Set the thermostat on the highest comfortable temperature. For every degree you increase your thermostat in the summer, you can reduce cooling costs by 3-5%.
- Set the dehumidifier to the desired relative humidity level at 50% or less.
- Change or clean air conditioner filters monthly.
- Use ceiling and portable fans, while in the room, to keep air moving and make the area feel cooler. Fans only use about as much energy as a light bulb. The fan should run counter-clockwise during the summer.
- Close blinds, drapes and shades during the hottest part of the day. This keeps the sun's rays from heating your house, decreasing your cooling costs.

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