



Economic Development and Retail Services Department

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Top Ten Energy-Saving Tips

Use these simple no-cost and relatively low-cost tips for increased energy conservation and savings on utility bills.

Tip #1 — Turn your thermostat down in the winter; turn it up in summer.

For every degree you turn your thermostat down in the winter you can save 3 percent to 5 percent on your energy bill. Keep your thermostat at 70 degrees or lower and put a sweater on if it gets chilly. This also works in reverse during summer months. Increase the temperature to 78 degrees to realize additional savings! (A no-cost idea!)

Tip #2 — When leaving a room, turn the lights off.

On average, lighting your home accounts for 10 to 15 percent of your energy bill. Be sure to flip the switch when leaving a room. (A no-cost idea!)

Tip #3 — For small meal prep, use a microwave or toaster oven rather than a conventional oven.

Avoid using a large conventional oven when cooking small portions of food. Microwaves and toaster ovens use much less energy, but cook foods just as well. (A no-cost idea!)

Tip #4 — Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.

You'll conserve the amount of resources needed to heat the water that your dishwasher and washing machine uses. You'll not only be saving energy, but you'll be conserving water too. (A no-cost idea!)

Tip #5 — Use the sun and window coverings to control the temperature in your home.

Open window coverings on sunny days to let in the sun's warmth. Close them at night or on cloudy days to keep the cold air out. Use draperies, blinds, curtains or shutters on all windows to slow the loss of heat through the glass. (A no-cost idea!)

Tip #6 — Adjust the temperature on hot water heaters.

Water heating typically accounts for 16 percent of your energy bill. Set water heater temperatures no higher than 120 degrees to realize additional savings. (A no-cost idea!)

Tip #7 — Position furniture in the home for optimal comfort

Make sure your furniture is placed next to inside walls instead of outside walls, and away from drafty windows. Avoid blocking heat registers and returns with furniture, draperies or carpet. (A no-cost idea!)

Tip #8 — Seal leaks and cracks especially around windows and doors

Poorly-sealed homes allow heated air to escape through gaps. Caulking and weather-stripping reduces uncomfortable drafts and lowers energy bills considerable. (Approximately \$10 for supplies.)

Tip #9 — Replace old light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs.

By replacing 25 percent of your lights in high-use areas with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), you can cut your lighting costs in half. (\$3 to \$7 cost upfront per bulb, ongoing long-term savings will be realized.)

Tip #10 — Check and replace furnace filters.

Replace filters at least once every two months. A dirty filter makes a furnace work harder to push air through it. (Approximately \$10 per filter.)