

COOLING



You can make small changes to reduce your need for air conditioning

- Switch your ceiling fan to turn in a counter-clockwise direction in the summer; in the winter, run it at low speed, but clock-wise
- Close your exterior doors and windows tightly when the AC is on. Save even more by turning off kitchen and bath exhaust fans.
- Block the sun from overheating your home! Inside, use shades, blinds and drapes. Outside, use awnings, trees and shrubs.
- Close unused air vents. If you have central AC you can close air vents in rooms you're not using so you're not paying to cool them.
- Use ceiling fans to cool off for less. Ceiling fans use no more electricity than a standard light bulb.
- Make saving automatic. Set your thermostat fan switch to "auto" to save energy.
- Leaving in the "on" position keeps air running constantly.
- Change or clean your AC's air filters at least once a month to keep your system running at peak performance.
- Insulate walls and attics to save energy by keeping hot outside air from seeping
- Give your AC a tune-up. Running an inefficient AC system can result in high monthly bills

HEATING

Heating and cooling accounts for 48% of the average energy bill

- Cover all bare floors. Carpeting or rugs add to comfort and heat retention.
- Raise the temperature slowly. Quickly raising your heat pump's temperature activates the heat strip, which uses tons of energy.
- Set your thermostat to 68-70° during the day in the winter, and 65-68° at night.
- Close the flue in your fireplace and install glass doors to keep warm air in.
- Limit your use of portable heaters. They're great for "spot" heating, but can be expensive.
- Don't block air vents with drapes and furniture.
- Change the filters in your heating system every month for optimum efficiency.
- Give your air compressor space to work efficiently. Never stack anything against your HVAC or drape anything over it.
- Set your thermostat to 60° if going on vacation during the winter months, but don't turn it off.
- Heat your home with the sun's help. Leave window shades or blinds open during the daytime, and consider using solar heat to supplement your normal heating source.
- Keep your thermostat close to the outside temperature. It's cheaper to keep your home at 70° when it's 50° outside than when it's 30°.

To learn more about saving energy in your home, visit these sites:

Project Energy Savers

www.projectenergysavers.com

The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

www.aceee.org

U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Star

www.energy.gov

Energy Star

www.energystar.gov

Alliance to Save Energy

www.ase.org

Rocky Mountain Institute

www.rmi.org



Home Energy Savings Guide

Save more money on utilities by making your home more energy efficient

ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEANS:

- Getting the most out of each unit of energy you purchase
- Using energy wisely
- Eliminating the ways your home wastes energy

MAKING YOUR HOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT WILL:

- Save your money
- Make it more comfortable
- Make it safer



Space heating.....	35.2%
Water heating.....	13.1%
Space cooling.....	10.8%
Lighting.....	9.7%
Refrigeration.....	6.6%
Electronics.....	6.5%
Cooking.....	4.5%
Clothes dryers and dishwashers...	4.3%
Computers.....	1%
Other.....	8.4%

Source: Buildings Energy Data Book, 2007, U.S. Department of Energy

LIGHTING



10% of your energy bill is spent lighting your home

- Turn off the lights. One 100-watt bulb left on overnight costs \$25 per year
- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). A typical home can save \$80 per year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Last Longer. CFLs can last up to 10,000 hours. That's 10 times as long as an incandescent bulb.
- Shop for sales. Stores often have sales on CFLs, especially in October during National Energy Month.
- Buy Energy Star light fixtures and lamps. They use 25% of the energy of traditional fixtures.
- Select light-colored or opaque lampshades. Place lamps in corners so they reflect light from two walls.
- Keep lights clean. Dust can cut a bulb's light output by 25%
- Disposing CFLs: like paint, batteries, and thermostats, CFLs should be disposed of properly. **DO NOT THROW AWAY IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD TRASH.** If possible, deposit at a hazardous waste facility in your community.

WATER

The water heater accounts for 13% of your energy bill

One reason: we use a lot of water. Another reason: we actually pay twice for water. You pay one bill for the cost of water, and a second bill for heating that water. Reducing the amount of hot water you use will reduce money on both bills

- Always wash with cold water. Laundry detergent works just as well, and you'll save 40 cents per load.
- Turn down the temperature. Set the thermostat on your water heater to 120° to save up to 10% on your energy bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Turn off your water heater if you plan on leaving home for a few days. Most models will reheat the water in about an hour.
- Check your hot water pipes for leaks which can drain your energy savings.
- Install low-flow faucets and shower heads. They use one-third to one-half the water of regular showerheads.
- Get an insulation wrap for your water heater. This reduce the standby heat losses by 23% to 45%
- Insulate the first six feet of the hot and cold water pipes. It'll keep your comfort high and your energy bills low.
- Shorten those showers to cut hot water costs.

APPLIANCES

The average home uses \$1,900 worth of energy every year—and more than 20% of that goes right into your appliances

- Thermostats should be set between 36° and 38° F for the refrigerator. Freezers should be kept at 0° F
- Use microwave or toaster ovens to cook or warm leftovers. You'll use less energy than cooking with an oven.
- Pull the plug on that second fridge located in the hot garage or utility room. Duke Energy Progress will pick it up and pay \$50 to recycle it.
- Check door seals and gaskets. They should be alright. To test, you can put a slip of paper on the door and close it to see if it stays in place.
- Leave room behind the fridge. It needs a few inches of air to circulate around the condenser coils.
- Dust the fridge. Use coil vacuums or dusters to clean off the coils behind to fridge and keep costs down.
- Avoid energy vampires. Even when they're turned off, home electronics in "standby" mode use energy to power features like clock displays.
- Plug electronics into a power strip. Then turn the strip off when not in use.
- Look for ENERGY STAR qualified TVs. They're up to 30% more efficient than non-certified models