

# Home Energy Saving Tips

## Lighting

- Install LED light bulbs in place of existing bulbs
  - LED light bulbs use approximately 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs
- Turn off the lights when they're not in use.
  - Lighting accounts for about 12% of a typical residential utility bill.

## Appliance Tips

- If possible, wash your clothes in cold water.
- Clean or replace all filters in your home regularly.
  - Dirty filters cause your system to work harder and run longer than necessary.
- Using dishwashers and clothes washers/dryers at night will keep the house cooler, reduce strain on the power grid during the peak usage hours of 4 PM and 6 PM and reduce the chance of an emergency!
- Set your refrigerator temperature to the manufacturer's recommendation to avoid excessive cooling and wasting energy.
- Turn off heated dry on your dishwasher and air dry instead.
- Turn off the oven a few minutes before cooking time runs out.
  - Your food will continue to cook without using the extra electricity.
- Avoid placing appliances that give off heat, such as lamps or TVs, near a thermostat.

## Thermostat Tips

- Set your home's heating and cooling system to work around your schedule with a programmable thermostat. This simple change can provide household comfort, real energy savings and lower your energy bills.
- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible in the summer and as low as possible in the winter.
  - The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall heating and cooling bill will be.
- Adjust the thermostat only to the desired temperature.
  - Your home won't heat or cool faster by cranking it up.
- Using your ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort.

## Building Envelope

- Sealing cracks, gaps, leaks, and adding insulation can save up to 10% on home heating and cooling costs.
- Installing ENERGY STAR certified windows, doors, and skylights can shrink energy bills — and carbon footprints — by an average of 12 percent nationwide
  - Consider adding solar shades or tinting film to existing windows.
- During warmer months, close blinds, shades and drapes on the sunny side of your home to help keep your home's temperature cooler and reduce the work for you AC.
  - Open shades during cooler months to let the sun warm your home.

## Other Low Cost, No Cost Tips

- Don't leave your computer on all day long.
  - Only turn on your computer, monitor, printer and fax machine when you need them.
- Don't leave bathroom or kitchen ventilation fans running longer than necessary.
  - They replace cooler inside air with warmer outside air.
- Turn off power strips when not in use
- Don't leave your mobile phone plugged in overnight. It only takes a couple of hours to charge.