

The Affordable Green Housing Center's

Energy Saving Tips for Your Home

Top 4 Investments to Increase the Energy Efficiency of Your Home:

1. Have an Energy Audit performed on your home
2. Buy Energy Star Appliances
3. Add insulation
4. Air seal your home



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Low and No Cost Ways to Save Energy and Money in Your Home



Lighting

- Turn off lights
- Take advantage of natural lighting
 - Replace bulbs with CFLs
- Use motion sensors when possible

Appliances

- Get rid of extra refrigerators and freezers
 - Keep refrigerator and freezer full
- Defrost refrigerators and freezers regularly
- Keep refrigerator temperature between 36-38 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Keep freezer temperature between 0-5 degrees Fahrenheit
- Keep refrigerators away from ovens, dishwashers, and heat sources
- Use the smallest possible pan on the stove
- Use crock pots, pressure cookers, toaster ovens, and microwaves when possible
- Cook multiple dishes at once in the oven
- Use ceramic and glass dishes in the oven and lower the cooking temperature by 25 degrees
 - Air dry your laundry



Electronics

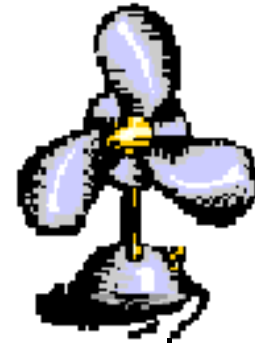
- Use power strips and turn off all electronics completely by turning off the power strip
 - Use sleep mode on your computer
- Turn off printers and copiers when not in use
 - Unplug everything when not in use

Landscaping

- Plant drought resistant and native species
 - Shade your air conditioner with trees
 - Plant trees to act as a wind break
 - Plant trees to provide shade
- Keep a southern exposure area unshaded to allow for future installation of solar panels

Heating & Cooling

- In winter, keep thermostat at 68 and 55 when you are not at home and while asleep
 - In summer, keep thermostat set at 78
- In summer, keep windows closed in the day and open at night
 - In winter, cover and seal windows with plastic kits
- Use heavy curtains and blinds to help keep rooms warm or cool– close drapes during sunny summer days and winter nights
 - Use fans, not air conditioners
- Check ceiling fan direction of rotation– in summer air should be pushed down
- Clean and replace furnace filter regularly
 - Keep vents clean and unobstructed



Water Heating & Efficiency

- Turn down water heater to 120
- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes
 - Wash clothes in cold water
- Use energy saving cycles on your dishwasher (no heat dry)
 - Take shorter showers
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth, shaving, etc.
- Install low-flow fixtures on sinks and showers
- Place weighted plastic bottle in toilet tank to reduce water used per flush
 - Repair leaky faucets