



Smart ways to save money.

Energy-Saving Checklist

Your local cooperative works diligently to control the cost of electricity. The list of energy saving tips below can help you control your cost and ultimately save on your electric bill.

Encourage your neighbors take advantage of these tips as well. Together, we can contribute to energy conservation.

Start today!



Turn down the thermostat especially when leaving your house and at night. Consider installing a timer so you don't have to remember to do it yourself. Set the temperature as low in the winter and as high in the summer as your comfort allows.



Replace traditional incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs which are up to four times more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs and provide the same light levels. They also last up to nine times longer than standard incandescent bulbs.



Turn off lights in any room you're not using, or consider installing timers, photo cells or occupancy sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.



Clean or replace filters on your furnace, air conditioner and heat pump regularly.



Wash full loads of laundry using cold water when possible. Don't over-dry your clothes—if your dryer has a moisture sensor, use it. And clean the dryer's lint filter after every load to improve air circulation.



Use the energy-saving settings on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines and clothes dryers. Go a step further and air-dry your dishes by opening the dishwasher instead of using the heated drying cycle.



Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37° to 40°F for the refrigerator and 5°F for the freezer. Remember to clean the coils on your refrigerator.



Check for and caulk any holes or cracks around your walls, ceilings, windows, doors, light and plumbing fixtures, switches, and electrical outlets that can leak air into or out of your home. Use non-expanding foam insulation around doors and windows.



Humidity is a factor. Take baths or showers and wash dishes early in the morning or in the evening instead of during the day. Use an outside clothesline to avoid adding heat to your house during the hottest months. Replace old or worn out bathroom exhaust fans with humidity sensing units.



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Continue Saving

- Cook smarter.** Match the size of the pan to the heating element. Use electric pans, toaster ovens or microwaves for small meals rather than your large stove or oven. You can use less energy and reduce cooking time.
- Turn off the computer.** You will conserve energy by turning off or using sleep mode for any computer not in use for two hours or more.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater.** A setting of 120°F provides comfortable hot water for most uses. And installing an insulating blanket on your water heater should pay for itself in less than a year. Consider replacing old or leaking water heaters with a lifetime warranted, high energy efficient Marathon water heater.
- Take more showers than baths.** Bathing uses the most hot water in the average household.

Long-Term Savings

- Replace aging, inefficient appliances.** Even if the appliance has a few useful years left, replacing it with a top-efficiency model is generally a good investment. Look for the **Energy Star** label to select energy-efficient products when you buy new heating and cooling equipment and appliances.
- Insulate.** Check to make sure insulation levels are appropriate in your attic, exterior and basement walls, ceilings, floors and crawl spaces. You can increase the comfort of your home while reducing your annual heating and cooling usage by up to 10% by simply investing in proper insulation and sealing air leaks.
- Service accordingly.** Have your heating and cooling systems tuned up in the fall and spring. Service other appliances as recommended in your owner's manuals.
- Upgrade leaky windows.** It may be time to replace them with energy-efficient models or to boost their efficiency with weather-stripping. When replacing old windows, be sure to select a window with a U-factor of .30 or lower and with low-E coatings.
- Landscaping can also help.** A line of fast-growing trees, like poplars, or tall shrubs can serve as a windbreak. Planting evergreen trees on the north side and deciduous trees on the south side of a home can block winter winds and summer sun. Shrubs along the house can help, too, but don't let them interfere with heat pumps or air conditioners.
- Use an air-conditioner with an efficiency rating of 13 or higher.** Window units are rated by their Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER), while central systems use a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). Use the proper size because bigger is not always better. If you are building a new home, consider installing an energy efficient geothermal system to cool and heat your home.