



Eco-friendly / Carbon footprint / Global warming / Energy-efficient; these catch phrases have become part of the lexicon as people become more aware of the impact they have on the environment and their role in protecting it.

Going green doesn't have to be overwhelming or costly; as a homeowner, there are some simple, inexpensive steps one can take to make a home energy-efficient. As we work towards a greener future, one major focus can be energy use. We need to think about where our energy comes from, and how we use energy in our homes. Cutting down on the amount of energy we use not only preserves our natural resources, but it also saves us a good deal of money.

**PERFORM AN ENERGY AUDIT:** Conduct an energy assessment with a professional. Some utility companies now offer free or low-cost assessments. It's much easier to address problem areas in your home once you can identify them.

The average homeowner can cut down on their energy usage – and bills – by cutting down on energy wasted. This requires a few simple home improvements. With one trip to the hardware store and an afternoon of work, you can improve your home's energy efficiency and contribute towards a greener future for us all. The following tips will help homeowners get started on the road to being "green."

**Here are some quick efficiency boosting tips to help you conserve water, energy (and money) in your home and or business!**

### Appliances & Electronics →



- ❖ Buying Efficient Products; qualified appliances like refrigerators, washers/dryers, water heaters; and air conditioners that met a higher level of energy efficiency set by the Environment Protection Agency and US Department of Energy are excellent. If just one in 10 homes used energy efficient appliances the impact would be compared to planting 1.7 million new acres of trees. Switching to these appliances is not only good for the environment but long term easy on the pocket. Look for front loading washers/dryers with a turn-off sensor; although these products may cost more upfront the long term energy savings will be reduced by \$80 per year. Some products allow for a manufacturer and or federal

rebate;

- ❖ Estimating Energy Use
- ❖ Turning Off Computers

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*"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan..."*  
- Abraham Lincoln

### Designing & Remodeling →



- ❖ Weather Stripping; seal up cracks and air leaks represent cash sleeping from doors and windows. Get rid of air leaks in the doors, windows and other areas by caulking gaps and cracks. This will help decrease the heating and air conditioning bill; although make sure to use silicone sealants. Acrylic caulk tends to shrink, while silicone sealants are waterproof and won't shrink or crack, creating less waste:
- ❖ Passive Solar
- ❖ Cool Roofs
- ❖ Whole-House Design: open curtains and shades on south facing windows to allow the warmth of and allowing the sun;
  - Re-caulk old windows, doors, vents and shafts; utilize high grade weather stripping;
  - Move furniture off of drafty exterior walls and onto interior walls;
  - Use ceiling fans to circulate the air – in the winter reverse the fan to pull the air up;
  - Close the fireplace damper when not in sue, or go a step further and install a chimney balloon to prevent drafts;
- ❖ Filters: replace air filters regularly;
- ❖ Ultra-Efficient Homes
- ❖ Log Homes
- ❖ Manufactured Homes
- ❖ Earth-Sheltered Homes

### Electricity →



- ❖ Change Light Bulbs: by replacing just five incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, one can save \$100 per year on electric bills while using up to 75% less energy and removing greenhouse gases from the environment;
- ❖ Reducing Electricity Use
- ❖ Buying Clean Electricity
- ❖ Making Clean Electricity
- ❖ Reading Electric Meters

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### Heating & Cooling →



- ❖ Adjust Thermostat; when adjusting the homes/business' thermostat, the rule of thumb should be **Turn-Up** the dial in the summer and **Turn-Down** in winter. Lowering the temperature by just one degree will reduce electrical costs. A programmable thermostat, albeit a

little more expensive although worth in the long run, enables homeowners to program the air-conditioning and Heating Systems to reduce output while no one is at home or at night while sleeping. Ceiling fans are also helpful in circulating the air to keep the room cool in the summer and warm in the winter;

- ❖ Heating Systems: overhaul or replace furnaces, hot water heaters and appliances that are major energy drains. If your furnace was built before 1992 and has a standing pilot it probably wastes about +35% of the fuel it uses; also it most likely near the end of its service life. The initial investment will pay off in the long run, and there is a good chance you will qualify for a manufacturer or federal rebate;
- ❖ Selecting a Water Heater: turn down the temperature on your water heater, typically 120 degrees, wrap your unit in a water heater blanket and insulate your water lines so they don't cool off as quickly between uses;
- ❖ Selecting & Replacing Your System
- ❖ Cooling Systems
- ❖ Heat Pumps
- ❖ Ducts & Meters

### Insulation & Air Sealing →



- ❖ Weather-Stripping & Caulking: around doors and windows will cut down on your heat loss. It is also good to caulk any cracks or holes that might be in your basement, attic walls or ceiling;
- ❖ Weather Stripping Cut-Outs: you can buy simple, pre-cut, pieces of insulation that fit behind outlets and wall switches. These two fixtures are basically holes in your walls, but a simple piece of foam insulation behind the plastic cover will stop any cold air from sweeping into the home/business. Installation is simple and can be done in a few minutes; they usually come in bulk packs, for often

less than \$5.00.00

- ❖ Insulation: adding insulation to any previously un-insulated areas also cuts down on your heating and cooling bills;
- ❖ Controlling Moisture
- ❖ Ventilation

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### Landscaping →



- ❖ For Your Climate
- ❖ For Your Microclimate
- ❖ Shading
- ❖ Using Windbreaks
- ❖ Conserving Water & Xeriscaping

### Lighting & Daylighting →



- ❖ Lighting Choices to Save You Money; changing light bulbs and replacing just five incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) or LED bulbs, can save \$100 per year on electrical bills while using up to 75% less energy and removing harmful greenhouse gases from the environment;
- ❖ Change Light Bulbs: by replacing just five incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, one can save \$100 per year on electric bills while using up to 75% less energy and removing greenhouse gases from the environment;
- ❖ Natural Lighting: open curtains and shades on south facing windows to allow the warmth of and allowing the sun;

- ❖ Artificial Lighting
- ❖ Types of Lighting
- ❖ Turning Off Lights
- ❖ Natural Lighting

### Water Heating →



- ❖ Using Less Water: according to California Urban Water Conservation Council roughly 60% of a home's water consumption takes place in the bathroom. The largest culprit is the toilet, which accounts for 27% of the household supply every year. Replacing leaky fixtures, wasting as much as 2,400 gallons a year, installing low flow toilets, showerheads and faucets will reap a huge annualized savings;
- ❖ Selecting a Water Heater: turn down the temperature on your water heater, typically 120 degrees, wrap your unit in a water heater blanket and insulate your water lines so they don't cool off as quickly between uses;

- ❖ Solar Water Heaters
- ❖ Demand (Tankless) Water Heaters:
- ❖ Reducing Water Heating Bills
- ❖ Swimming Pool Heating
- ❖

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### Windows, Doors & Skylights →



- ❖ Energy Performance Ratings
- ❖ Selecting Windows
- ❖ Selecting Exterior Doors
- ❖ Selecting Skylights
- ❖ Tinting

### Connect with Energy Savers

- ❖ Contact US and ask for more suggestions or let us perform an Energy Audit for you;
- ❖ Energy Savers Blog
- ❖ LinkedIn
- ❖ Twitter
- ❖ Facebook

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