



Quick Tips to Save Energy and Money!

1. Replace Your Light Bulbs:

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL) are 70% more efficient than incandescent bulbs and are about \$2.00 each; the payback is a few months.

2. Insulate Your Attic:

Attics can be great sources of heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. Payback will vary depending on your region, but you will usually recover the cost within two (2) years.

3. Weatherization:

Weatherizing your home means sealing where air can infiltrate indoors through areas such as doors, windows, and where pipes enter their home. The cost of this varies depending on the age and construction of your home. You can hire someone to check if your home is well weatherized to help you cut down on energy consumption.

4. Programmable Thermostats:

The average home will spend over \$1,000 a year on heating and cooling. Programmable thermostats adjust the temperature in winter and in summer, as well as during unoccupied hours. At a cost of \$50 to \$150, the payback can be seen in well under a year.

5. Maintain your HVAC System:

Your heating and cooling system equipment runs best when properly maintained. Change your filters on a regular basis. Having your HVAC system serviced on an annual basis will increase the life of your system and ensure that your system is not costing you more than it should. It is recommended that you hire a licensed technician.

6. Replace Your Single Pane Windows:

Upgrading to more efficient windows can help control temperature and air infiltration in your home. This is probably one of the more costly upgrades you can do. Depending on the age of your windows and the area's climate, the payback may just be a few years.

7. Unplug ALL Appliances You Are Not Currently Using:

Did you know a computer can use as much electricity as a brand new refrigerator? By switching computers off or using the computer's power management setting to allow standby mode, you will lower the amount of power being drawn when the computer isn't being used. What about those appliances you left plugged in? They are drawing power even when they aren't being used. Examples: cell phones, curling irons, lamps, coffee makers, entertainment systems...Check around your house for these items to see if there is anything you can unplug to save on your energy usage.

8. Conduct Your Own Energy Audit:

Do you really need two refrigerators? Is there a fish tank with no fish? Walk around your house to see if there are any large appliances you don't use or areas that are especially drafty? Make sure air registers or grills are not blocked by furniture or draperies. Keep the damper closed when the fire place is not in use.

9. Dress Appropriately:

Put on a sweater or wrap in a blanket instead of turning up the heat. A comfortable cost effective temperature range is from 65° to 68°F. Each degree higher can significantly increase your monthly energy cost.

10. Watch Your Timing:

Try to use energy-hungry appliances such as washers, dryers and dishwashers during off-peak hours. It is recommended to avoid using these appliances between 6-9am and 5-7pm Monday-Friday when costs can double or even triple!