



## Save Energy, Save Money, Save the Planet

### Top Ten Home Energy Savings Tips

Replace four most-used incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.

If all U.S. households replaced 4-100 watt bulbs (on for an average of 4 hours), we'd save as much energy as is produced by 30 power plants annually. Remember to use dimmers and timers for your indoor lighting and motion detectors on your outdoor lighting.

Use an automatic thermostat to coordinate indoor climates with your family's daily and weekly patterns.

Keep thermostat at energy efficient and comfortable setting during the day and turn the heat down at night. This saves @ 1% for every degree of night setback. Raise your thermostat during the summer.

Clean or replace filters monthly, or as needed.

Heating and cooling accounts for about 50% of the average family's energy bill. Maintain your equipment with a professional tune-up annually. Remember, dirty filters can greatly affect the heating and cooling ability of your equipment and waste valuable energy and fuel.

Set your water heater temperature lower to 120 degrees

Heating your water tank takes up 15% of your entire home energy usage. More importantly, 40% to 60% of that is lost as standby heat loss, when not in use. Wrap your tank with an insulation blanket, available at any home center. When your existing tank reaches its end of life (usually between 7-10 years) replace it with a tankless (on-demand) system, which is much more efficient.

Run clothes washer and dishwasher only when it is a full load.

This saves water and energy. Remember to use cold water when washing clothes to save even more. On sunny days, try using the clothesline instead of the dryer.

Go with a low-flow showerhead and reduce water consumption and energy used to heat the water!

A quality low-flow showerhead uses only 1 to 2 gallons instead of up to 8 gallons of water per minute with a regular showerhead. You will hardly notice a difference, except on your utility bills!

Turn off everything when not in use! -- Lights, TVs, computers, etc.

You could also unplug devices or put on a Smart Strip and turn it off. 7-11% of home electricity is wasted on equipment which is plugged in and not in use!

Consider composting to reduce solid waste, and add nutrient to your gardens.

See our composting guide for additional details.

Renewable energy may be for you!

Your home may be a good candidate for Solar Panels for electric or hot water generation.

Get a professional home energy audit from an Energy Star Accredited company.

This will help you to better understand your energy use and identify areas to fix that will provide the greatest impact for YOU.

Good luck in making our planet a better place for your family!

For additional information, contact **Green Living Solutions** at:

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