

Home Energy Savings Made Easy

American families spend about **\$2,000** a year on their home's energy bill. But an energy efficient home can cut residential energy bills by 20-30%. From light bulbs to fans to refrigerators to air conditioning, there are many ways to save money on your electric bill by making your home more energy efficient.

Simple Steps to Home Energy Efficiency

Cheapest solutions first

Before spending thousands on a new HVAC unit, spend far less on sealing, insulation, shade trees and other simple solutions, which can often result in surprising savings.

☆=20 to 30%↓

Look for Energy Star

Energy Star is a classification that alerts customers to energy efficient appliances. Energy Star appliances generally operate 20-30% better than government efficiency standards.

about every **\$50** 10 yrs

Get an energy audit

They can be as cheap as \$50 and will let you know where to best put your dollars when considering energy efficiency improvements. It's a good idea to get an energy audit every 10 years.



Think long term

Energy efficient appliances may cost more to buy than standard units, but the long-term savings can add up to thousands over the life of the appliance.

Energy Saving Freebies

Energy efficiency starts by just being smart and making a few personal changes. Here are some easy ideas that don't cost anything, but can help you save money in the long run.



Time-of-use plan

\$25 - \$50/month

Many electric utilities will offer incentives for their customers to use electricity in off-peak hours, often at night or the early morning. This might require changing your cooking, cleaning and laundry schedule to minimize inconvenience.



Close closet doors

\$50 a year

Keeping closet doors closed lower the square footage needed for heating and cooling, plus, closets along exterior walls will act as insulation. It may seem like a little change, but it can make an impact.



Lower water heater temperature

\$30 a year

Many people like hot showers and have their water heater at 140 degrees. But dropping it to 120 degrees can help make a dent in the electric bill while still providing a hot shower. Lower it to 110 degrees and see even more savings.



Use the microwave

\$40 a year

A microwave uses less energy than a range-top stove, making it a better option for reheating and some cooking jobs. Go to the microwave often for better energy usage.



Get rid of extra refrigerators

\$200 a year

Refrigerators are one of the top energy using appliances and the hardly-used garage fridge may be driving up your electric bill. Some utilities will offer \$50 and come haul it away.



Unplug electronics

\$100 a year

While a smart strip can automate this process, simply unplugging or turning off power strips when not in use can make a dent in your electric bill, as many electronic devices still use electricity even when turned off. Additionally, don't overcharge phones, tablets and other devices.

5 Most energy consuming appliances

Want to know where your energy dollar is going. Here are the five most energy sucking appliances you own. Energy efficiency can produce the best savings on these items.

Heating



900-2,000

kWh/month

Air Conditioning



600-1,800

kWh/month

Water Heater



400

kWh/month

Dehumidifier



160

kWh/month

Refrigerator



30-200

kWh/month

Savings on Lighting

Looking for a great place to start on energy efficiency? Try lighting.

CFL and LED bulbs cost more, but the average yearly cost to operate them is much lower. You'll recoup the cost quickly.

Water Heater Savings Options

Water heating can account for as much as 18% of Americans' energy usage.

Technology like a tankless water heater saves space, supplies an endless amount of hot water and saves money over the long term.

Traditional incandescent **\$4.80**

Halogen incandescent **\$3.50**

Energy Star CFL **\$1.20**

Energy Star LED **\$1.00**

Tankless Points of Use **\$79**

Condensing Gas **\$93**

Tankless Gas **\$160**

Heat Pump Water Heater **\$246**

Look for Tax and Utility Credits

In many cases, homeowners can get a tax rebate for an energy efficient appliance or home upgrade. A variety of rebates may be available from your regional utility, as well as local, state and federal government tax credits:



Gas, oil or propane water heaters



Heat pump water heaters



Central AC



Biomass stove



Windows, doors and skylights



Insulation



Metal and asphalt roofs



Refrigerators

