

CAMPUS energy CHALLENGE



FUTURE homeowners' and renters' guide to energy savings

Money-saving tips for every budget

Most of us are trying to cut our energy consumption because it's good for the environment and good for the budget. As a student, you may not be paying a monthly electric bill now, but chances are good that you will be within a few years. Here are a few no-cost energy-saving habits you can adopt today that will serve you well in the future.

- Remember the magic numbers 68 and 72. For every degree you set your thermostat below 68 degrees in the winter or above 72 degrees in the summer you'll save about 3 percent on your utility bill.
- Keep furniture and drapes from blocking heat sources.
- Replace incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs. CFLs use 75 percent less electricity.

Save by shutting

- Shut drapes or blinds in summer; open them during daylight hours in winter.
- Shut off bath and kitchen exhaust fans when their jobs are done.
- Shut off faucets. Running hot water when you don't need to wastes two to three gallons a minute. That's water you or someone else paid to heat.
- Shut off extra lights. Focus light only where it's needed such as kitchen counters or computer desks.
- Shut off TVs, stereos, and appliances, and unplug chargers when not in use.
- Shut the door!



Beware of the greedy entertainment center

Using a big-screen TV, video games, DVRs, and TVs in multiple rooms can add up to 10 percent to your electric bill. That's as much as keeping 12 laptop computers plugged in and running for a year! To diminish those phantom loads, plug all electronics into the same power strip. Turn off the electronics, then turn off the power strip.

Do chores that pay

- Keep radiators, air registers, and baseboard heaters free of dust.
- Defrost refrigerators and freezers when the frost is about a quarter of an inch thick.
- Clean the clothes dryer lint filter after every load and periodically scrub any residue from the filter screen.

Practice water wisdom

- If you can control your water heater's thermostat, lower it to 120° F.
- Take a shower instead of a bath. A bath takes twice as much hot water as a five-minute shower.
- Wash full loads in the clothes washer and dishwasher.
- Wash clothes in cold water with cold-water detergents as often as possible.

Get smart in the kitchen

- Use the smallest pan needed, put a lid on it, place it on the right sized burner, and turn the heat down when contents begin to boil.
- Use your microwave or slow cooker instead of your stove or oven.
- Skip preheating your oven unless you're baking things that have to rise.
- Set your refrigerator somewhere between the recommended 37° F. to 40° F. for the refrigerator and 5° F. for the freezer.
- Keep refrigerators and freezers full but not packed.
- Let dishes dry on their own rather than using the heat-dry cycle on your dishwasher.

With some time and effort you can develop energy-saving habits before you start paying monthly electric bills. It's a worthy goal, not just for the monetary rewards, but for the resources that you'll help preserve for generations to come.

Do my energy savings really make a difference?

With good energy-conservation habits and the help of Energy Star products, Americans saved \$1.6 billion on their utility bills in one year alone.

\$1.6 billion. Not bad. Some of that could be yours!