

efergy[®]

Energy saving is easy!

Keep your family comfortable
while saving money

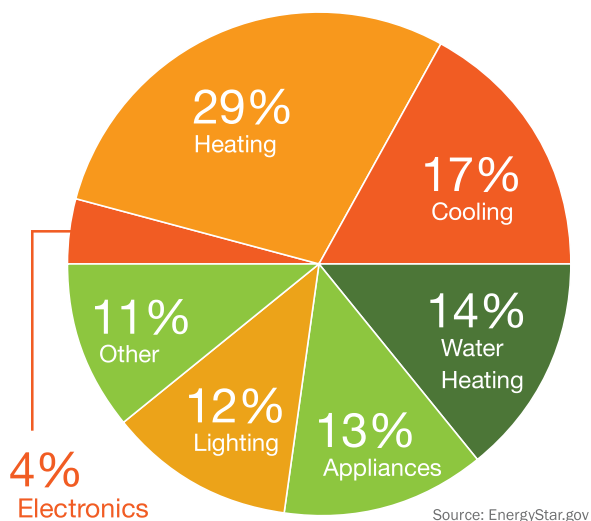


Contents

Introduction	1
12 ways to save energy	2
Energy saving tips by device category	
1. Heating and cooling tips	3
2. Lighting tips	4
3. Water heating tips	4
4. Appliances and electronics	4
Energy mythbusters	5
Understanding your electric bill	10
Energy monitor guide	11
Reminder Labels	13

Save up to 20% on your energy bills

Looking for ways to reduce your energy bills and save money? We can help.



Make your home more energy efficient, without sacrificing your comfortable lifestyle.

If you're like most people, you're already doing some things to cut down on energy use, such as lowering the heat at night.

To help you save even more, we've put together this guide of more things you can do to make your home more energy efficient, without sacrificing your comfortable lifestyle.

Your home is a system running many different appliances to keep things comfortable and running smoothly. These appliances may be necessary for your home and they all require energy. It's simple, when you use less, you'll pay less.

This guide will help you learn about the big energy consumers in your home, so you can find ways to save energy and lower your bill.

Home energy and you

Follow the simple tips in this guide to start saving.



12 WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY



Unplug your electronic devices and chargers when not in use



Wash only full loads of clothes. Use cold water to wash whenever possible



Give your dryer a break and hang-dry your clothes instead



Use a dishwasher, it consumes one-third less hot water than hand washing



Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle



Take short showers instead of baths and use low-flow showerheads for additional energy savings



Give your A/C a break cool your home with fans and open windows



Check windows and doors are closed when heating or cooling your home



Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills and manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently



Use ceiling fans to keep cool through summers, they circulate air and create a breeze



Use power strips for your home electronics and turn the power strips off when not in use



Replace your bulbs with more efficient CFLs or LEDs

Looking for more ways to save money on your energy bill?

Saving energy is easy, here are some more tips by device category:

1. Heating and cooling tips

a. No-cost

Use shades, blinds and drapes to help with heating and cooling. Open them to take advantage of the sun's heat during the summer season and close them to block the heat during the colder seasons. Make it a habit today.

Leave thermostat's fan switch on "auto" so the fan only runs when the furnace runs. Setting the fan to "on" causes it to run all the time, whether or not heating or cooling is needed.

b. Low-cost

Seal cracks and gaps around windows, doors and siding with caulk and weather stripping. This prevents loss of heated or cooled air and improves the comfort of your home.

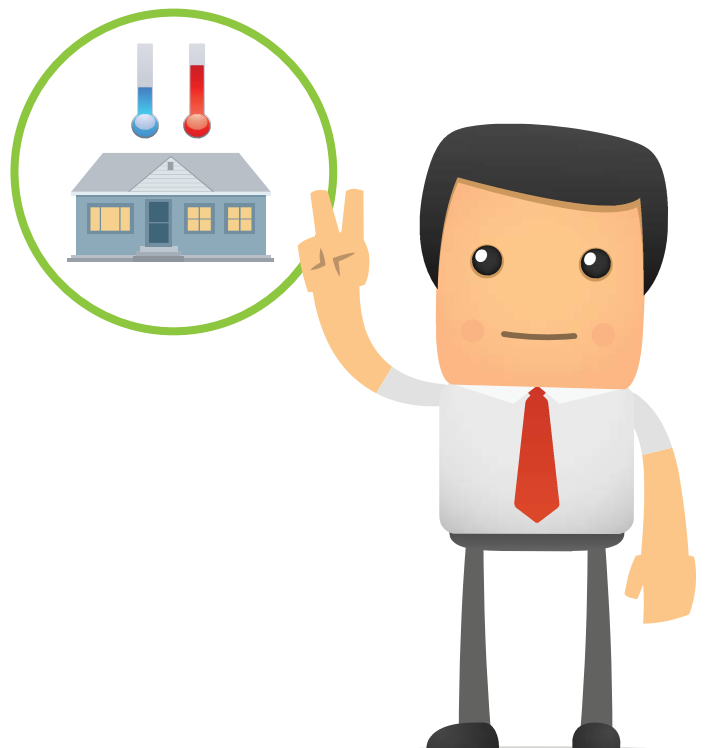
Use fans in summer, even if you have air conditioning. Circulating cool air makes it feel cooler. Using an air conditioner and fan together means you can set the thermostat at a higher-than-normal setting to save energy.

Keep in mind that it does little good to run fans when you are not around. Similar to an outdoor breeze on a hot summer day, air moving across your body is what makes you feel cooler.

Install a programmable thermostat for your comfort and convenience. It can adjust the heat or air conditioning for times you typically are away (when you go to work) and again for times you typically are home.

You also can program it to turn the heat down when you go to sleep and turn it back up before you wake up in the morning. It adjusts automatically, so you don't have to remember to do it.

Schedule regular tune-ups for your furnace and air conditioner. Seasonal maintenance keeps equipment running safely and efficiently, and saves money in the long run.



2. Lighting tips

a. No-cost

Turn off lights when no one needs them.

b. Low-cost

Use dimmer switches on indoor lights and timers or motion sensors on outdoor lights.

3. Water heating tips

a. No-cost

Check that your water heater is set to 120 °F (49 °C). If not, adjust the setting.

Fill your clothes washer and dishwasher for each use. Full loads are most efficient.

Use a lower temperature setting on your clothes washer. Make sure you always rinse with cold water, and switch to cold instead of warm or hot for the wash cycle.

a. Low-cost

Install water-saving tap aerators and showerheads.

Look for showerheads that are rated to use no more than 1.5 gallons of water per minute.

4. Appliances and electronics

a. No-cost

Choose a drying cycle that uses the moisture sensor rather than the timer to save energy and extend clothing life. Moisture sensors monitor laundry dryness and stop the drying when moisture is gone. This saves time and energy costs, and also prevents over drying that may cause clothes to shrink.

Hang your laundry for air drying to save energy, reduce wrinkles, eliminate static cling and reduce wear on your clothes. Air drying takes even less time now with high-efficiency washers.

Unplug electronic devices that you're not using, especially when you go on holiday. When you return, plug in devices only as you need them.

Use computer and game console power management features. Factory default settings are not always the most efficient, so check settings and adjust if needed. Turn off your computer or game when finished to save even more.

Low-cost

Use power strips for your electronic equipment. Many electronics consume energy even when you are not using them. Often called energy vampires. Plugging chargers, computers and printers into a power strip lets you turn them off with one switch. Better yet, use a smart power strip. It turns off automatically when devices are not in use.

Energy mythbusters!

There are a few energy saving tips that aren't really useful or true. In this section are the key questions we get asked, with their answers below.

Should I leave the heating on low all day even when I'm out, or turn it up only when I need it?



According to leading energy experts at the UK Energy Saving Trust, as well as British Gas, the idea that it's cheaper to leave the heating on low all day is a myth. They're clear that you'll save energy, and therefore money, by only having the heating on when it's required. (Using a timer's best, because your thermostat is designed to turn your heating on and off to keep your home at the temperature you set it).

The key thing to understand here is that it's all about the total amount of energy required to heat your home.

It's a given that a certain amount of energy is constantly leaking out of your home (though exactly how much will depend on how good your insulation is). So if you're keeping the heating on all day you're losing energy all day, it's better to heat your home only when you need it, even if that means whacking the temperature up high.

However it is worth being aware that while the most commonly cited argument for leaving the heating on (that it's cheaper than heating the home up from cold) is a myth, there are a few specialists who argue you should keep the heating on constantly for a different reason.

They advocate keeping the heating on low all day, turning all radiator valves up to the max and the boiler down to the minimum, and say that the problem with turning the heating on and off is that every time it's turned off, condensation collects within the walls. This condensation can help conduct heat outside the home, they say meaning you leak heat more quickly and so will use more energy as a result.

Should I keep the hot water boiler on all the time, or turn it on and off as needed?



If you have a gas, oil or LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) central heating system, it will always be cheaper to time the system so the hot water comes on only when required.

Is it cheaper to use radiators or electric heaters?



Electric heaters are one of the most expensive forms of heating. Generally, the cheapest way is using an efficient gas central heating system, with a full set of thermostatic radiator valves, a room thermostat and a timer.

Do phone or laptop chargers still use electricity when they're plugged in, but not connected to the device?

Try to unplug chargers when not in use. A lot of devices draw power when plugged in and not in use. This is sometimes known as “vampire power”. Using this standby power can be easily avoided by switching devices off at the wall.

British Gas says on its website that leaving chargers in a socket uses energy (if the charger is warm, it's using energy). It says that some chargers (including those from Apple) turn themselves off when not connected to a device. It adds that, generally, branded chargers are more efficient than non-branded ones.

Should I run appliances at night?

If you're on an a special tariff from your energy provider you'll probably pay less during the night, if you don't have a time specific tariff that's cheaper it doesn't make a difference.

Should I set thermostats on individual radiators, rather than using the main thermostat to control all of them?



It's best to have as many controls as possible, so you're in charge of the way you want your home to be heated. A room thermostat saves, on average, about 10% a year.

Would painting my radiators black or putting reflective panels behind them help?

Where painting your radiators black is concerned, the answer's no. It's best to keep them the standard white, although the difference is not huge. It's more important to insulate your walls to prevent the heat leaking out of your home altogether.

What's the difference between controlling the heating using the thermostat or radiator valves?



There's little difference in terms of energy efficiency, but what can change is how quickly the room is heated up.

The thermostat controls the room temperature, so once it hits the temperature you set on the thermostat, the radiators will go off, until the room temperature drops again.

Turning your radiators up and down using thermostatic radiator valves on the side of them affects how quickly the room heats up. If you have them on high, your radiators will emit lots of heat quickly until the set temperature is met and vice versa.

Should I have the gas fire on in the living room, or all the radiators in the house?

There is no one answer for this. It's highly dependent on the heating system you use, and the usage in other areas of the house.

If my heating is on, should I keep doors open or closed for each room?



It's better to keep doors closed for the area you want heated.

Radiators, electric panel heaters and convection heaters all work by creating a convection current in a room. As hot air rises, it circles around to the other side of the room, cools and sinks and travels back along the floor to the heater to be reheated again.

Should I leave lights and appliances on, or turn them on and off each time?

Turn them off when you don't need them. Also avoid leaving TVs and other devices on standby.

MSE forum feedback: While turning devices off completely saves energy, the difference can be negligible. So don't bank on this solving all your energy woes.

Should I use a tumble dryer or place washing on an airer with heating on?



An airer is better because tumble dryers use a lot of energy.

Try timing it so you put your washing out on a clothes horse during the hours your heating comes on. Normally, that way you wouldn't use any more energy.

Are halogen heaters cheaper than other portable heaters and central heating?

This depends what you're after. Halogen heaters are directional. Once on, you instantly feel the heat. As soon as you turn them off, the heat quickly dissipates. Convection heaters, electric panel heaters or free-standing electric radiators work by heating the air around them to create a convection current. They take some time to heat a room, but once turned off the heat lingers.

Should I use an immersion heater to heat water, or oil-fired central heating?



Generally, using oil for hot water is cheaper, due to the higher average cost of electricity. However, if you're able to use a lower rate electricity tariff at the right time, it can work out more cost-effective. This is also dependent on the efficiency of your central heating system.

Is a combi boiler cheaper to run?

The cost is largely dependent on its efficiency. An A-rated combi condensing boiler will cost less to heat the same amount of water as an older, less efficient non-condensing boiler. But combi boilers can be less efficient at heating hot water than other boilers.



How do I know
if I'm making a
difference?



Use an
energy monitor!



The first stage is to check that changes in your energy habits have made a difference by using an energy monitor, then it's a case of keeping a regular check to make sure your reduced energy use is maintained.

How much energy do you use right now?

Start by becoming familiar with the information contained in your electric bills and then monitor your energy usage every day. This will make you more aware of just how much energy your home is consuming and more conscious of energy issues generally. It can also provide a big incentive to test various strategies to improve your home's energy efficiency and will help you monitor the impact of those changes.

Understanding your electric bill

Electrical usage is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). One kWh is equal to using a 100 watt light bulb for 10 hours.



An energy monitor (or power monitor) is easy to install, requires no rewiring and displays your energy usage and spend in real-time and also saves the history. This means you can *-and will-* adjust your energy consumption habits based on what you see.

Energy monitor guide



1. In-home Energy Displays (IHD's)

In-home Displays (IHDs) do exactly what they say, they sit inside your home and show you the energy consumption.

Home owners will place the display in easily viewable places, some choose the kitchen or their coffee table or even their bedside table.

Having this device around the house makes is a constant reminder of your energy use. The elite In-home display is one of the biggest selling energy monitors in the world.



2. In-home Displays with Downloadable Data

Do you want to download your energy consumption data from the display and check it in more detail on your computer?

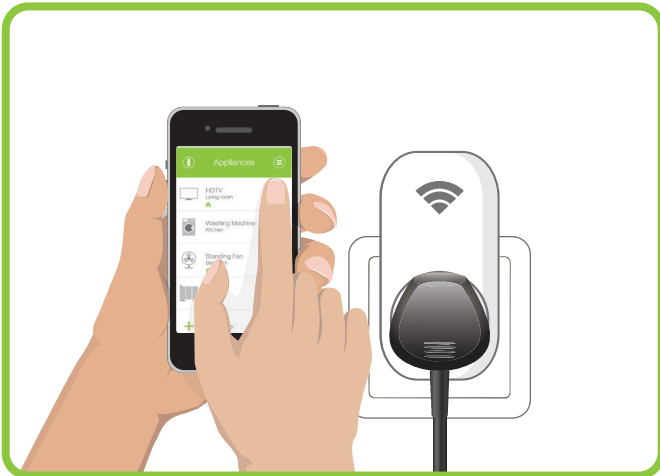
The e2 IHD allows you to do this. Download the device's data and import it into the eLink software.



3. Online Energy Platforms and Apps

More and more homeowners want to be able to check their energy use while on the go and from other locations. Online platforms and apps give you the chance to view your consumption in real time from a smart phone, laptop, PC or tablet.

You can also view a history of your usage, the cost so far (day/week/month) and also how you're performing against a preset budget amount



4. Individual Appliance Monitor and Control

This is the latest in energy monitoring. It's now possible for you to monitor and control individual appliances in your home through a smart phone app. Not only does this allow you to see how separate appliances are performing it also gives you the ability to switch the device on and off from an app.

The ego app will even automatically shut down appliances that have been on standby for too long.

Reminder Labels

Cut out these reminders close to appliances and switches to make sure you get into good habits quickly and stick to them!



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efergy products, feel free to contact us.

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or visit our webpage

www.efergy.com