

# Energy Efficient



## for your home

**Thermostat Smarts** - Save up to 10 percent a year with a programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts the temperature by 10 to 15 percent for the hours that the house is unoccupied.

**Stop Air Leaks** - Don't let the air that you've paid to heat or cool your house escape. Block leaks around windows, doors, and wiring/plumbing perforations. Don't forget to insulate your attic, exterior walls, basement, and crawl spaces.

**Nature's Climate Control** - Open curtains and blinds on south-facing windows to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home on cool days, and leave them closed on summer days to reduce heat.

**Lighting** - Switch to compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), which use 1/4 the energy of a traditional light bulb. If every American home replaced just one 100-watt incandescent bulb with a 23-watt *ENERGY STAR* CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes!

**Appliances** - To cut your utility bills by 30 percent, look for the *ENERGY STAR* label, the symbol for energy efficiency, when shopping for major appliances, lighting, windows, and home electronics.

**Home Electronics** - Unplug any battery chargers, such as a cell phone charger, from the wall when not in use. Keep electronics plugged into power strips and surge protectors that can be turned off when not in use, especially overnight.

**Water** - Because 90 percent of the energy used for washing clothes is for heating water, try washing clothes using the cold or warm settings instead. Make sure the washing machine/dishwasher is full when running and let the clothes/dishes air dry. Lowering the thermostat on your home's water heater to a setting of 120°F can also help cut costs and save energy.

**Landscaping** - Plant trees or shrubs to shade air conditioning units (but don't block the airflow). A well-placed tree near the house can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce your energy bills up to 25 percent. Just make sure to keep those trees away from nearby power lines!

For more information visit [EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://EnergyEdCouncil.org)

