

Simple ways to save energy

Below is a list of simple things your can do to an exiting home or a home under construction to save energy.

- Add an insulation blanket to your water heater
- Insulate your hot water lines
- Install a programmable thermostat, program it to step down the winter temperature when you are away from home
- Shut off heating vents in unused rooms
- Use the energy saving settings on appliances
- Install water-efficient faucet heads on sinks and showers
- Clean/change the filter on your heating/cooling system
- Install compact fluorescent light bulbs and/or fixtures – these can save 75% on energy usage and reduce the amount of heat created by lighting
- Caulk and seal potential areas of air leakage
- Check and/or replace seals on windows and doors
- Air dry your clothes
- Use the energy-savings settings on all appliances
- If you have a water bed, keep it covered when not in use with a thick quilt, this can save up to one third of the energy it uses

More expensive/time consuming things that can be done to most homes to conserve energy.

- Seal and insulate heating/cooling ducts
- Insulate the ceiling above crawlspaces or unheated basements
- Add additional insulation to your attic
- Insulate the walls of heated basements
- Have a blower door test performed on your home, seal all leaks identified
- In the basement or attic, plug and seal any air leaks
- Seal around all utility penetrations into or within the home, they are a big source of air infiltration
- Have your heating/cooling system checked and tuned up
- Make and use insulating shades for your windows
- Provide shade for your air conditioning condenser, can save up to 10%
- Install window awnings to block the summer sun
- Install more efficient windows
- Plant trees to shade your home, especially on the west side