



SIERRA
CLUB
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



**Now that you know an
inconvenient truth...
How are we going to change it?
What in the world can I do?**

Home Energy Audit Check List to CURB GLOBAL WARMING

In Summer (7% of household energy is used for cooling.)

- Open windows and shades in the cool night time hours and close them during the day to block out direct sun.
- Cook outside or with a microwave oven instead of a stove. Save money and improve comfort.
- Use a whole house fan, room fans or ceiling fans instead of air-conditioning.
- Set your thermostat to 78°F or higher.
- When you turn on the air conditioning, decrease the temperature incrementally rather than turning it to a very cold setting immediately.
- Use a programmable thermostat for central air. Save 10 to 35 cents per hour.
- Turn off the air conditioner when no one is home.
- If you have a window air conditioning unit, use a fan to blow cool air into other rooms.
- Use a timer for room air conditioners. Save 5 to 15 cents per hour.

- Put compact fluorescent bulbs in your most-used fixtures and lamps. Fluorescent bulbs put out less heat, plus you will save \$30 to \$40 over the life of each bulb.
- Clean air conditioner filters every month, and clean outdoor fins annually. Use a hose in the spring to remove leaves and dirt.
- Keep your cooling system well tuned. Have it professionally maintained, and ask how the energy efficiency of the system may be increased.

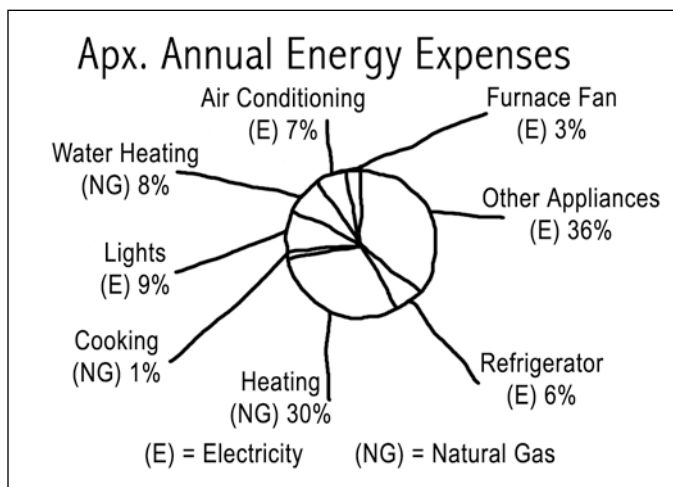
Laundry

- Dry clothes on a clothesline instead of in a dryer.
- Clean the clothes dryer lint trap after each load.
- Clothes dry faster, you save money and reduce the risk of fire.
- Wash clothes in cold water. Save 10 to 20 cents per load.

In winter (30% of household energy is used for heating)

- Lower the thermostat at night and when you're away (55°F lowest setting). Save 1% for every 1°F temperature decrease for an eight-hour setback.
- Check furnace filter monthly and replace as needed to maintain furnace efficiency.
- Seal around sewer vent pipe in basement and attic to keep in heated air.
- Close fireplace damper after fire is out to stop drafts and save money.
- Have your gas furnace tuned up at least every other year.
- Let the sun in during the day to reduce heating costs.
- Close drapes and shades at night to keep the heat in and save money and improve comfort.
- Wear slippers and sweaters at home in the winter and keep afghans or blankets on your couch for friends and family.
- Clean and clear space around radiators, registers, and cold-air returns.

- Use "draft stoppers" to block drafts under your doors. Use a towel, rug, or blanket, or make one yourself.
- If you have a fireplace, make sure the damper is closed when you are not using it.
- At the end of summer, remove, clean, and store window air conditioning units. If this isn't possible, cover it with a thick layer of fiberglass insulation and seal with plastic sheeting and waterproof tape to keep moisture out.
- Outfit your radiator with a heat reflector. This is a thin metal sheet that fits behind the radiator, to reflect heat away from the wall and into the room.
- Reduce drafts behind light switches and electrical outlets with childproof caps and "draft blockers." These foam plates are easy to install with a screwdriver. You can get a packet of 10 for about \$3 at hardware stores.



EnAct Energy, Madison Environmental Group, Inc. 2005

Lighting

- Replace most-used incandescent bulbs and fixtures with fluorescent. Save two-thirds of lighting costs.
- Use photo-eye and timer fixtures or timers on outdoor lights. Save energy.
- Turn lights off when not in use—100 watts for 10 hours costs 10 cents.



Water heating

- Set water heater at 120°F to 125°F. Save money and prevent scalding.
- Insulate pre-1990 water heaters, especially electric heaters. Pays for itself in six months.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. Save on water and heating costs.



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