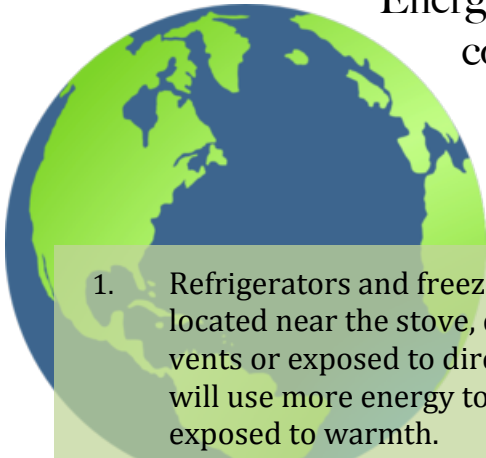


EVERYDAY ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency can work for you to reduce the energy you consume without reducing your quality of life.

Here are 23 easy and affordable ways:



1. Refrigerators and freezers should not be located near the stove, dishwasher, or heat vents or exposed to direct sunlight—they will use more energy to remain cool when exposed to warmth.
2. Install a ceiling fan. You can save money by using a fan instead of highly energy-consuming AC.
3. Use a convection oven or convection setting to use 20% less electricity than conventional ovens.
4. Use a power strip. It will allow you to easily turn off all power to electronic devices at one time.
5. Switch to washing laundry in warm or cold water instead of hot water. Wash hands with cold water too.
6. Allow dishes to air-dry, or run the dishwasher with a full load only—and use the energy saving mode.
7. Switch out old incandescent light bulbs for energy-efficient LED and CFL bulbs.
8. Plug up air leaks around windows with caulk. Install draft guards for doors.
9. Make sure your heating and cooling ducts aren't leaking. If they are, use duct sealant to repair.
10. Use programmable thermostats that switch on and off at set times.
11. Install storm windows.
12. Use as much natural sunlight as possible. (Use curtains in the summer to stay cool.)
13. Rather than using a dryer machine, hang clothes to dry.
14. Adopt a home and office policy to turn off lights, computers, monitors, fax machines, copiers, and printers at night.
15. Ask your utility company if they offer green energy purchasing programs.
16. Clean the lint trap every time you use the dryer. Excess lint is a fire hazard and prolongs the time required for clothes to dry.
17. Get a free home energy audit. You can save up to 30% off your energy bill and 1,000 pounds of CO2 a year. Energy Star can help you find a specialist in your area.
18. Cover pots while cooking. Use pressure cookers, steamers, crock-pots, and slow cookers: they can save 70-75% energy.
19. Keep garage doors closed in the winter. An open garage door sucks warm air out of your home and lets cold drafts in.
20. Turn off the stove or oven 5-10 minutes before cook time is up. Let the trapped heat finish the cooking.
21. Use halogen light bulbs for outdoor lighting—they use 25% less energy. Put lights on timers when you're away from home instead of leaving them on all day.
22. Unplug your laptop, cell phone, coffee maker, toaster, and camera once they are fully charged. They will always draw power when plugged in.
23. Contrary to popular belief, do not let your car idle in the morning! Driving the car slowly warms it faster than letting it idle.