

ENERGY TIPS

INFORMATIONAL GUIDE



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this informational guide is to inform the public on ways to reduce energy consumption, save money, help conserve our natural resources and fight global warming.

According to the State website, *Flex Your Power*, "global warming is already happening, causing more severe droughts, storms, floods, forest fires and food shortages around the world. We can avoid the most devastating consequences of global warming, however, if we act swiftly.

Fortunately, many of the technologies needed to reduce emissions are already available. By changing habits, replacing old inefficient appliances with new efficient ones and making energy upgrades to your home, you can cool the planet and save energy at the same time."

ENERGY CONTACTS

These energy tips and additional energy conservation information is available through www.FlexYourPower.org funded by California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission or call **TOLL FREE** at **(866) 431-FLEX (3539)**, to receive information on a variety of topics such as: ✓ Rebates, Incentives and Services; ✓ Efficient Appliances (Energy Star); ✓ Find a Store; ✓ Product Guides; ✓ Order **FREE** two-sided energy-saving tips cards and reduce electricity and gas costs as well as protect the environment.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), www.hud.gov offers funding for affordable housing programs and projects to nonprofit organizations, contractors, builders, developers and homeowners. HUD also assists in obtaining decent, safe, and sanitary housing, in privately owned, rehabilitated buildings for very low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities.

One of the many programs offered by HUD is **Energy Efficient Mortgage Insurance**, purchase or refinance a principal residence and incorporate the cost of energy-efficient improvements into the mortgage. The website is www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/eem/energy-r.cfm or contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 451 7th Street S.W., Washington, DC 20410, Telephone (202) 708-1112 TTY: (202) 708-1455. **National Toll Free (800) 669-9777 (voice) or (800) 927-9275 (TTY).**

NO COST ENERGY TIPS

Lighting

✓Disconnect or remove lamp fixtures. Use task lighting where needed. Use up to 50% less in lighting energy.

✓Unplug electronic devices, appliances, equipment, chargers and lamps, when they are not in use. Plug everything into a power strip and switch it off after shutting down electronic devices, appliances, equipment, chargers and lamps.

✓Turn off the lights when not needed.

✓Turn off screen savers, computers, monitors, and printers. Laptops use 90% less energy than desktop computer.

✓Make sure you are getting the best possible light by cleaning fixtures and replacing any yellowed or hazy lenses and diffusers twice a year.

✓Open blinds and shades. Turn off lights in unoccupied areas or in spaces with sufficient natural lighting.

Heating

✓On cold days, set the thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home (health permitting) and lower when you are away. Lowering the temperature 3 to 5 degrees can save you 10% to 20% on heating costs. Pull the drapes in the winter to limit amount of heat that escapes.

✓ Dress comfortably for the weather. Adjust your layers before adjusting the thermostat.

✓Clean furnace filters monthly. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use. Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated and property adjusted can save up to 5% on heating costs.

✓Keep the fire place damper closed when the fireplace in not in use. Closing the damper prevents up to 8% of furnace-heated air from going up the chimney.

✓In the winter reverse ceiling fan motor so that the blades push air up toward the ceiling, where hot air normally rises. The fan will drive the warm air back down around the edges of the room, which can result in more even heating. Better heat circulation will help combat the problem of sweating windows that some homes experience in the wintertime because of condensation on the glass.

✓Close drapes, blinds and shades to help retain heat at night or during unoccupied periods. Keep them open during the day to let light in, particularly for south-facing windows.

Cooling

✓Close drapes, blinds and shades to keep sun's rays out of the home during the warmer months, particularly for south-facing windows.

✓Check the settings on the room air conditioner. Make sure

the “fresh air” vent on the air conditioner is closed so you are not cooling outside air.

✓ Move the room air conditioner. If possible, put the air conditioner in a north-facing or shaded window; direct sunlight reduces efficiency. Remove and store the air conditioner during the winter rather than keeping it in the window.

✓ Remove and clean room air conditioner filters monthly. Dirty filters reduce the efficiency of the air conditioner.

Fuel Conservation

✓ Keep the tires on vehicles properly inflated.

Cooking

✓ Cook with a full oven. Prepare dishes together when possible. If you have three dishes to be cooked in the oven at slightly different temperatures (325 degrees, 350 degrees and 375 degrees, for example), pick the average temperature (350 degrees in this case) to cook all three.

✓ Use the microwave instead of the oven.

✓ Use the broiler when possible.

✓ Cook during temperate hours. Avoid preparing meals that require you to use the range or oven extensively on hot days. This helps to reduce the load on your air conditioner and makes you feel more comfortable in your home.

✓ Don't peek. Every time you open the oven door to look at the food, the oven temperature is lowered by 25 degrees to 75 degrees. Use a timer if the oven door does not have a window.

✓ Minimize or eliminate preheating.

✓ Use cooking time wisely. Turn off the electric range two to three minutes before and let the residual heat finish the job.

✓ Use leftover heat as a food warmer. Turn off the oven immediately when finished cooking.

✓ Keep oven and burners clean and kitchen ventilated. A clean oven uses energy more efficiently.

✓ Use the right size pot on the stove burner. A 6" pot on an 8" burner wastes over 40% heat. Also, cover pots and pans.

Water Heater

✓ Adjust your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees or less and save 10% to 15% on water heating costs.

Refrigerator

✓ Minimize door openings as much as possible. Every time the refrigerator door is open cold air escapes. The unit must then work harder to replace the air. Be sure the door closes completely.

✓ Keep the refrigerator full. A full refrigerator retains cold better than an empty one. If the refrigerator is nearly empty, store water-filled containers inside. The mass of cold items will enable the refrigerator to recover more quickly after the door has been opened. On the other hand, don't overfill it, since that will interfere with the circulation of cold air inside.

✓ Keep your refrigerator away from heat sources, such as an oven, a dishwasher and direct sunlight from a window. A 10 degrees increase in surrounding temperature can result in 20% higher energy consumption.

✓ Adjust the refrigerator temperature settings. Optimum refrigerator range is 37 to 40 degrees and freezer range is 0 to 5 degrees. If the temperature control system does not specify degrees, check the manual for corresponding settings.

Water Conservation

✓ Don't run the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.

Laundry

✓ Wash clothes in cold water. Run full loads in the evening when the demand for energy is less.

✓ Clean the lint from the clothes dryer after every load. The efficiency of the dryer goes down when lint collects over the dryer filter. Run full loads and use the moisture-sensing setting. Save 5% on your electric bill.

✓ Dry similar types of fabrics together. For example, put towels together in one load. A lower dryer temperature may be used for certain clothes. See the owner's manual for more information.

✓ Keep the clothes dryer's outside exhaust clean. A clogged exhaust lengthens drying time and increases energy use.

✓ Line-dry clothes whenever possible. This can save up to 5% of your energy costs.

✓ Presoak or use the soak cycle when washing heavily soiled garments. You will avoid two washings and save energy.

Dishwasher

✓ Run the dishwasher when it is full. Use the air-dry option instead of the heat-dry. Check and clean the dishwasher filter.

OTHER ENERGY TIPS

✓ Take advantage of utility rebates of \$200 to \$300 - use up to 20% less energy this winter. Funding for rebates is limited and may be subject to change or termination without prior notice.

✓ Replace furnace filters and get a furnace turn-up. Install programmable thermostat.

✓ Choose top-freezer models instead of side-by-side refrigerators. Replace your old, inefficient appliances such as, furnace, air conditioner, washer, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator, hot water heater, broiler, computers, home electronics (print, fax, copy and scan) and windows, with an energy-saving ENERGY STAR qualified model. Take a room-by-room tour of Energy Star at home at www.energystar.gov and learn what you can do for a more comfortable home that saves energy, money and our environment.

✓ Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs.

✓ Install proper ceiling, wall and attic insulation and weather-strip doors and windows to save up to 25% on heating costs. Take advantage of duct sealing and leakage testing incentives up to \$600. Funding for rebates is limited and may be subject to change or termination without prior notice.

✓ Install water efficient toilets.

✓ Install ceiling fans to reduce heating and cooling costs.

✓ Choose an energy-efficient water heater and qualify for a \$30 rebate. Consider a tankless water heater. Funding for rebates is limited and may be subject to change or termination without prior notice.

✓ Replace older clothes washers with a qualifying high-efficiency model, which uses up to 35% to 50% less water. Many of these new models qualify for \$35 to \$75 rebates.

✓ Install low-flow showerheads to conserve water and save 5% to 10% on water heating costs. Showers can account for up to 50% of your hot water usage!