

Conserving electricity **IS GOOD FOR YOUR WALLET** *and* **THE PLANET**

Switch to electronic bank statements and bills. **RECEIVE AND PAY YOUR BILLS ONLINE.**

Think about the electricity you use. Simple changes in your everyday life can make all the difference for the world.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Here are some tips to help you conserve.

When it's hot outside

- Inspect and clean your air conditioner or cooling system every year. A well maintained unit uses less electricity.
- Seal drafty windows, doors, and holes around plumbing fixtures to keep the hot weather out and cool air in.
- Clean or replace air-conditioner filters at least once a month.
- Don't air-condition an empty room. If you have central air-conditioning, block the vents in unoccupied rooms.
- Install a programmable thermostat or use a timer to turn on your air conditioner a half hour before you return home rather than running it all day.
- If you have central air-conditioning, consider Con Edison's offer of a free programmable thermostat. Visit www.conEd.com/cool or call 1-866-521-8600.
- Use fans whenever possible instead of air-conditioning.
- Close shades, curtains, or blinds to keep out the sun. About 40% of unwanted heat comes in through windows.

Set your AC to no cooler than 78 degrees.

- Turn your air conditioner off when you leave home.
 - Make sure your air conditioner is the right size for the room or apartment. Bigger isn't better.
 - When it's time to cook, grill outside and keep your oven off.
 - On breezy days or when the outdoor temperature is below 70 degrees, open your windows and keep the air conditioner off.
 - Install your air conditioner out of the sun, if possible. They work better in shady areas.
 - Run your clothes washer, dryer, and dishwasher early in the day or at night when it's cooler.
 - Alternate the use of air-conditioning and fans. When you're comfortable, shut down your air conditioner and turn on the fan. This can cut your air-conditioner use by up to 40%.
- ### When it's cold outside
- Have your heating system cleaned and inspected by a qualified contractor every year.
 - Seal drafty windows, doors, and holes around plumbing fixtures to keep the cold weather out and warm air in.
 - Remove window air conditioners. If you can't, enclose them with a cover.
 - Install storm windows and exterior doors. Look for the ENERGY STAR label.
 - If you can't install storm windows, use a plastic window kit to cut drafts and seal in heat.
 - Health permitting, set your thermostat to 68 degrees during the day and 60 degrees at night and when no one is home.
 - Instead of turning up the heat, wear a sweater and add a blanket.
 - Install a programmable thermostat and program it to turn down the heat at night and when no one is home.
 - If your windows are well insulated, open the curtains and blinds on sunny days to let the sun in and close them at night to keep the heat in.
 - Keep drapes or furniture away from radiators and baseboard heaters so heat can flow freely.
 - Clean or replace filters for your hot-air furnace and heat pump every month during the heating season, or use filters made to run 6 to 12 months before needing replacement.
 - Use ceiling fans to circulate warm air in winter, especially in rooms with high ceilings.
 - Close doors and warm-air vents in unused rooms, but in extreme cold, be aware of water pipes that could freeze and burst.
 - If you have a hot-water heating system, release any trapped air from radiators.
 - Radiators can lose heat into exterior walls. Reduce this loss by placing reflectors between the wall and the radiator.
 - Use an efficient humidifier to maintain comfortable humidity levels and help you conserve heat. Proper humidity helps you feel comfortable without turning up the heat.
 - Inspect hot-air ducts to ensure adequate air flow and eliminate any loss of heated air.

Instead of turning up the heat in winter, WEAR A SWEATER AND ADD A BLANKET.

- If you have a forced-air heating system, seal the seams and joints in the ductwork with duct tape and insulate them with vinyl-backed fiberglass insulation.
- Wrap with insulation any hot-air ducts that pass through unheated spaces.
- Wrap with insulation any hot-water pipes that pass through unheated spaces. For steam pipes, use nonfoam insulation – foam can melt.
- When buying a new furnace or boiler, look for the ENERGY STAR label.

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Use power strips for electronics

Most electronic equipment continues to use electricity even when turned off. When electronic equipment is plugged in but not in use, it uses up to 10 percent of the electricity used in most homes.

The instant-on or standby feature on TVs, cable boxes and modems, DVD and CD players, and computers wastes electricity, costs you money, and hurts the environment. A TV

with a remote, for example, can use more energy during the 20 hours it is turned off than it does the four hours you watch it.

To prevent them from using power when not in use, plug your TVs, cable boxes and modems, computers, monitors, and other home-entertainment and computer equipment into power strips. This way, it's one easy switch to turn power on and off.

Also, when using your computer, set it to "hibernate" when not in use for 30 minutes. Turn off the monitor if you plan to leave for more than 20 minutes. Screen savers use electricity.

Choose energy-efficient appliances

ENERGY STAR-qualified appliances use 10 to 50% less electricity than standard models. They may cost more, but ENERGY STAR products save you money over the lifetime of the equipment.

A list of ENERGY STAR-qualified products is available at www.energystar.gov.

Also look for the yellow EnergyGuide label to help you compare the efficiency of different major appliances. It tells you how much electricity the appliance uses and estimates how much it costs to operate.

More information about the EnergyGuide label is available at www.eere.energy.gov.

Appliances

- Set your refrigerator to 40 degrees – but no higher – and freezer to zero degrees.
- Loosely store food in the refrigerator so air can circulate around it. In the freezer, pack items tightly. If there's extra space, add bags of ice.
- Open the refrigerator and freezer doors only when necessary.
- Use the energy-saving setting for all appliances, particularly your refrigerator, air conditioner, clothes washer, dryer, and dishwasher.
- Vacuum or dust refrigerator coils regularly.
- Install your refrigerator far from the stove, radiator, heating duct, or direct sunlight, if possible.
- Make sure the refrigerator door shuts tightly and has a good seal.
- Think about replacing your old refrigerator. Some older models may cost up to 50% of your monthly bill.
- Make sure your refrigerator is the right size for your needs. Bigger isn't better.

- Use a microwave rather than an electric or gas oven as much as possible. Microwaves use less than half the power of traditional ovens.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full.
- If possible, wash your clothes in cold water.
- Plan on buying an energy-efficient water heater before your old one fails. If your gas water heater is more than 10 years old, it may be operating at less than 50% efficiency.
- Consider a demand water heater that has no storage tank. It can reduce your energy use by 10 to 15%.
- Let dishes air dry instead of using the dishwasher's "dry" mode.
- Clean the lint filter in the clothes dryer before each load.
- Insulate hot-water pipes wherever possible.
- Fix leaky faucets.
- Take showers rather than baths. Showers generally use half as much hot water as baths.
- Take shorter showers.
- Install a low-flow showerhead.
- Set your water heater to no higher than 120 degrees or about midway between the low and medium settings.

Look for the ENERGY STAR label.

- Keep hot-air vents clean.

Lights

- Shut off all the lights when you leave a room.
- Use ENERGY STAR-qualified compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). They use less than 25% of the electricity standard bulbs use and last up to 10 times longer.
- Where you can't use CFLs, replace standard bulbs with halogen bulbs.

Unplug your cell phone, MP3 player, and PDA chargers when not in use. They use electricity, even when they aren't charging.

- During the day, let daylight do the work and turn off lights near windows.
- Keep bulbs and fixtures clean.
- Instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it.
- Replace light switches with dimmers or motion sensors. Dimming your lights just 25% reduces energy use by about 20%.
- Use night lights when a little light is enough.
- When you go away, use timers to turn your lights on and off.



Don't overdry your clothes.

Remember to shut off any LIGHTS YOU AREN'T USING.