



conEdison

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NATURAL GAS



HOW TO USE LESS, SAVE MONEY

To Save Money, Conserve!

Energy is expensive — and natural gas is no exception. And the demand for energy is greater than ever.

The best way to combat the effect of natural gas prices is to reduce how much you use, especially in the winter. Typically, 43 percent of your utility bill goes toward keeping the temperature of your home comfortable. And, because natural gas is the most popular home-heating fuel in the country, the price rises even more in the cold weather.

First and Foremost: Your Heating System

- Have a professional inspect your gas furnace at least every other year, and do any recommended maintenance.
- Check furnace filters every month. If the filter looks dirty change it. At a minimum, change the filter every three months. A dirty filter makes your furnace work harder and gives you less heat.
- Be sure your furnace is properly ventilated and clear of clutter to improve air flow and reduce the risk of fire.
- If your furnace is more than 10 years old or not keeping your house comfortable, consider replacing it with an Energy Star model. Incentives may be available for Con Edison natural gas customers who upgrade equipment. See the accompanying box.
- Set the thermostat at 68 degrees during the day and 60 degrees when you go to bed. Each degree warmer can increase energy costs by three percent. Thermostats in homes with infants, elderly, or ill individuals should be set higher.
- Invest in a digital programmable thermostat for more savings and better comfort.

Other Ways to Save on Heating

- Keep shades and drapes open during the day to let the warm sunlight in, and close them at night.
- Run ceiling fans at a slow speed to circulate warm air.
- Keep the fireplace flue closed when not in use.
- Keep furniture, drapes, and other objects from blocking radiators or heating vents.
- Close off unused rooms.

New Energy-Efficiency Programs


Con Edison's energy-efficiency incentive programs can help you use less energy. Residential gas and electric customers may receive rebates for upgrading their cooling, heating, and hot-water systems. Small business customers can receive free energy surveys and incentives for installing energy-efficiency measures. For details, visit conEd.com/energyefficiency or call 1-877-870-6118.

The EmPower New York Con Edison Gas Energy Efficiency Program is funded by the company under an agreement with NYSEEDA and provides eligible customers with gas-efficiency services. For information, call 1-800-263-0960, or visit getenergysmart.org/LowIncome/EmPower/ConEd.aspx.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, in coordination with Con Edison, is also expanding its gas-efficiency programs. The programs help eligible customers manage costs by identifying potential gas-efficiency measures and providing incentives for making improvements. To find out more, visit getenergysmart.org.

Insulate, Insulate, Insulate


Even tiny holes and cracks let warm air out and cold air in — with about one-third of this exchange coming through ceilings, walls, and floors. You can reduce your home's heating (and cooling) costs by as much as 30 percent through proper insulation and air sealing.

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- Check attic and crawl spaces and, if the insulation is damaged or there is none, install insulating material with a high “R value” — a measure of insulation effectiveness.
 - To find leaks, move a piece of tissue around windows and doors. If the tissue moves, you’ve found a leak. Seal the leaks with caulk or weatherstripping.
 - Remove window air conditioners at the end of summer. If you can’t, use covers that slip over the outside of the units. Or, mount the cover on the inside.
 - Keep all windows and doors completely closed.
 - Install door sweeps to reduce air leakage.
 - Buy plastic-sheeting window kits. The sheeting is easy to install on the inside of windows and adds an extra barrier against cold air.
 - Invest in Energy Star-qualified windows. They will lower energy bills and save you money over single-paned, and even new double-paned, clear-glass windows.

Hot Water and Your Energy Bills

Water heating is the third largest home energy expense. To minimize the cost:

- Set the water heater thermostat to 120° F, but install a “booster” in your dishwasher to increase the water temperature to the 140° F recommended for washing dishes.
- Insulate your natural-gas, hot-water storage tank, but don’t cover the water heater’s top, bottom, thermostat, or burner compartment. If in doubt, seek professional help.
- Insulate the first six feet of hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater.
- Promptly repair leaky faucets.

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- Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads.
 - Take showers instead of baths.
 - Use the cold-water setting when washing clothes.

Other Easy Efficiency Tips

- Cleaning gas stoves and ovens extends the life of the appliance and makes them more energy-efficient.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's full. If your dishwasher has one, use the energy-saving control.
- Use the clothes washer and dryer only when you have a full load.
- Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation.
- Dry towels and heavier fabrics separately from light-weight clothes. If possible, hang clothes up to dry.

Discover more energy-conservation and Power of Green ideas by visiting [**conEd.com/thepowerofgreen**](http://conEd.com/thepowerofgreen).

Want to Know More?

The following organizations also offer more energy-saving ideas:

The New York State Public Service Commission, [**www.AskPSC.com**](http://www.AskPSC.com)

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, [**getenergysmart.org**](http://getenergysmart.org)

New York City, PlanNYC, [**nyc.gov/greenyc**](http://nyc.gov/greenyc)

United States Department of Energy, [**energy.gov**](http://energy.gov)

Energy Savers, [**energysavers.gov**](http://energysavers.gov)

Edison Electric Institute, [**eei.org**](http://eei.org)

Save Energy, Save the Environment! Buy Energy Star Appliances!



Whether you need a new heating system, refrigerator, dishwasher, or TV, choose one with the Energy Star label.

In 2008, the Energy Star program helped Americans save \$19 billion on their utility bills and avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 29 million cars.

The typical household spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills, but Energy Star appliances can save up to 30 percent or more than \$600 per year — with similar savings in greenhouse gas emissions. More than 60 product categories now feature the Energy Star label, including major appliances, office equipment, lighting, and home electronics.

To learn more about the Energy Star program and how it can help you save energy and the environment, visit energystar.gov.

Financial Assistance Programs

Programs, including the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), are available to help income-eligible New Yorkers with rising energy costs. New York City residents can call the HEAP Hotline, 1-800-692-0557. Westchester County residents should call the Department of Social Services, 1-914-995-5619.

