



Tips On Saving Money and Energy This Winter

FACT SHEET



APARTMENT & CONDO EFFICIENCY SERVICES



ENERGY STAR PRODUCTS



HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR



WISCONSIN ENERGY STAR HOMES

For more information call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

With home heating costs expected to rise to record levels this year, it is especially important for residents to keep their homes warm and comfortable without spending more on their utility bills. Focus on Energy has developed some tips to make your home more efficient and less susceptible to high heating costs in winter.

1. Buy an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat.

Inexpensive and easy to install, programmable thermostats automatically turn the heat down during weekdays and at night, so homeowners aren't paying to heat the home when no one is there.

2. Change the ceiling fan direction.

Ceiling fans are useful all year round. With their direction reversed in the winter, they create a gentle updraft that moves warm air from the ceiling and distributes it evenly throughout the room.

3. Maintain the heating system.

To keep the furnace at peak efficiency, it is important to keep it maintained. That means scheduling yearly maintenance and regularly changing the filter.

4. Turn down the heat.

Homeowners can save money by simply turning the heat down. Turning the thermostat down just five degrees at night or while the house is empty can reduce heating bills by as much as five percent. If the homeowners plan to be away for a weekend or longer, turning the thermostat down by 10 degrees saves even more money.

5. Close storm windows.

Make sure storm windows are completely closed so no air leaks in or out.

6. Use the dishwasher only when fully loaded.

To reduce the amount of hot water used for dishwashing, residents should use the dishwasher only when it's fully loaded. Also, if available, they can use their dishwasher's energy saving feature such as partial load setting and no heat drying cycle.

7. Close the damper.

For homes that have fireplaces, it's important to close the damper when not in use. This prevents cold air from coming down the chimney and into the house.

8. Change five.

By replacing five incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) homeowners can save at least \$60 per year and use 75 percent less energy.

9. Look for the STAR.

By looking for the STAR - the ENERGY STAR - when replacing appliances or electronics residents can find energy and money savings on a variety of qualified products including clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and computers.

10. Schedule a Home Performance Evaluation.

A Home Performance with ENERGY STAR evaluation helps homeowners find hidden problems in their homes. The evaluation includes a comprehensive inspection of all systems of all systems in the home. Once the evaluation is complete, homeowners receive a report that identifies problems and recommends solutions.

For more information about Focus on Energy programs, call Focus on Energy at 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment, and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. For information about the Focus on Energy services and programs, call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

