



# Energy savings checklist for your home

## FACT SHEET



APARTMENT & CONDO  
EFFICIENCY SERVICES



ENERGY STAR  
PRODUCTS



HOME PERFORMANCE  
WITH ENERGY STAR



WISCONSIN  
ENERGY STAR HOMES



EFFICIENT HEATING  
& COOLING

For more information  
call 800.762.7077 or  
visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com)

**Ninety percent of Wisconsin homes have at least one energy efficiency measure that would be cost effective in energy savings within ten years.**

Understanding where and how energy is used in your home can help you make smart decisions that will increase comfort, reduce operating costs, boost the value of your home and help protect the environment.

Heating your home accounts for the largest portion of your utility bill. Other energy uses such as air conditioning, water heating, dehumidification, refrigeration, cooking and lighting also add up.

You can tackle these energy costs by making energy efficiency improvements to your whole house. The following checklist will help you increase comfort, reduce energy consumption and save money.

### HEATING AND COOLING

**Seal leaky pathways before insulating your attic.** During construction, openings are made in the attic for plumbing, wiring and chimneys. Seal these openings to keep heat and moisture out of the attic and avoid wasted energy and structural damage from ice dams and condensation.

Consider hiring a trained consultant partnering with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® for assistance by contacting Focus on Energy.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Preventing Ice Dams](#) from [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

### Insulate your walls and attic.

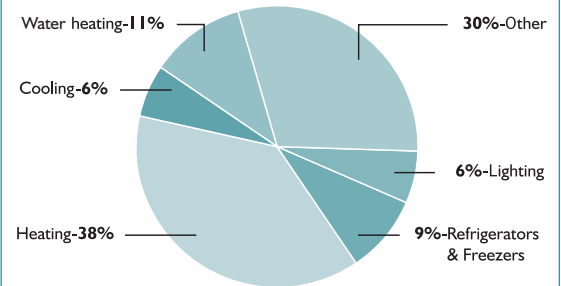
Insulation is a very cost effective way to save energy in your home. It keeps your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer by slowing heat transfer. Insulation and air sealing also help to screen out noise and keep water pipes from freezing. Insulate attic areas to at least R-38. For a major impact on heating and cooling bills and comfort, insulate above-grade walls by filling wall cavities completely. If you are replacing your siding, consider adding insulation underneath the new siding.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Basics of Insulating Your Home](#) from [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

### Change your furnace filter.

You can save up to 40 percent in furnace electricity costs just by changing your furnace filter. A clean

### YOUR UTILITY BILL AT A GLANCE



Energy use in the average Wisconsin home by percentage of annual utility bill. Water heating includes gas and electric costs. (Source: *Energy and Housing in Wisconsin: A Study of Single-Family Owner-Occupied Homes*, Energy Center of Wisconsin, 2000).

filter ensures effective airflow while maintaining the air quality and comfort of your home.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Choosing an Efficient Furnace](#) from [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

### Install a high efficiency furnace.

A high efficiency furnace makes sense for Wisconsin's long winters. Choose one with an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) of at least 90 percent—the choice of more than nine out of ten Wisconsin consumers.

Furnaces can be big electricity users as well. Focus recommends a multi-stage furnace with a variable speed fan motor (also known as an ECM, or electronically commutated motor); these furnaces are much quieter and use significantly less electricity than those with standard fan motors. Depending on how you use your fan, you can expect to save \$80–\$450 per year in furnace electricity costs. You'll save the most if you switch your furnace fan to “auto.”

For more information, download the fact sheet [Basics of Home Heating](#) from [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

### Choose a high efficiency central air conditioner.

ENERGY STAR qualified central air conditioners have a higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) than standard models, making them about 14 percent more efficient than standard models. Focus recommends 15 SEER or higher units. Ask a professional to calculate the right size unit for your home, ensure adequate



**focus on energy**  
The power is within you.

airflow across the cooling coil, and test for proper refrigerant charge. Place the outside unit (condenser) where it is protected from direct sunlight and vegetation.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Cooling Basics for Your Home](#) from [focusonenergy.com](#).

**Monitor your thermostat.**

Set it five degrees lower (or higher in summer) at night and when the house is unoccupied for eight hours or more. For convenience, install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature depending on the time of day and day of the week.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Managing Your Thermostat for Comfort and Energy Savings](#) from [focusonenergy.com](#).

### WATER HEATING

**Purchase a high efficiency water heater.**

The most efficient water heaters are generally gas-fired. If natural gas or LP is available, choose a power-vent gas water heater with an energy factor of 0.64 or greater. If gas is not available where you live, choose an electric water heater with an energy factor of 0.93 or greater.

Set the water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to save energy and reduce the risk of scalding. Also, fix leaky faucets and install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Energy Efficient Water Heaters](#) from [focusonenergy.com](#).

### APPLIANCES

**Replace a refrigerator purchased before 1990,** the year the federal government mandated higher efficiency standards. ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators use 50 percent less energy than models manufactured before 1993.

**Saving energy with your stove/oven.** Using the right sized pot on stove burners can save about \$36 annually for an electric range, or \$18 for gas.

**Purchase an ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washer** and use 50 percent less energy and water per load.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Resource Efficient Clothes Washers](#) from [focusonenergy.com](#).

**Don't over-dry your clothes.** A dryer operating an extra 15 minutes per load can cost you up to \$34 every year. Many dryers come with energy saving moisture or humidity sensors that shut off the heat when clothes are dry. If you don't have this feature, try to match the cycle length to the size and weight of the load. Remember to clean the lint trap before every load, as this step can save you up to \$34 each year.

**Choose a dishwasher with energy-saving features** such as a built-in booster heater, energy-saving wash cycle, and air-dry option. Run your dishwasher only when full. An ENERGY STAR qualified dishwasher uses 41 percent less energy than the federal minimum standard for energy consumption.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Choosing Efficient Refrigerators and Dishwashers](#) from [focusonenergy.com](#).

**Unplug appliances with "phantom loads" when not in use.** Some appliances and electronics use power even when turned off—such as televisions, stereos and products with external power adapters, also known as power supplies or battery chargers. This can account for up to 15 percent of home energy use.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Reducing Appliance Energy Use](#) from [focusonenergy.com](#).

### LIGHTING

**Install ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs** in lamps and fixtures that are on for three or more hours per day. High-use lighting can be found in kitchens, living rooms, recreation rooms and outdoor fixtures. These bulbs use 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Energy Efficient Home Lighting](#) from [focusonenergy.com](#).

### LEARN MORE

[focusonenergy.com](#)

Contact Focus to learn more about smart energy choices.

[energystar.gov](#)

The ENERGY STAR program provides information on energy efficient products that meet ENERGY STAR standards.

[www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo](#)

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) offers a wealth of home energy tips.

