



Free home energy tips and information

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FACT SHEET



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So you want to save energy and money at home, but where do you start? Here's a great place: Focus on Energy's Information Center—your ultimate resource for energy-efficiency and renewable energy tips and information!

Whether you're remodeling your home, shopping for a new furnace or water heater, or simply looking for practical ways to reduce your energy costs, our Information Center offers an entire library of free, downloadable fact sheets packed with everything you need to know.

To download any of the fact sheets described below (and many more!), just visit the Information Center at focusonenergy.com/resinfo or call 800.762.7077 to request a copy by mail.

Addressing Ice Dams

An ice dam is a shelf of ice and icicles that builds up on roof eaves. A common wintertime problem for Wisconsin residents, ice dams cause costly structural damage to houses every year. But what causes ice dams, and how can you avoid them? This fact sheet will tell you.

A Buyers Guide to Existing Homes

Purchasing a home is an important and exciting event. As a homebuyer, you will be confronted with a number of important decisions such as size, floor plan, aesthetics, location, and price. In the midst of these decisions, energy usually is not given much consideration, even though it can have a dramatic effect on the operating costs, comfort and even safety and durability of the home. Luckily, with the guidance from this fact sheet, there are steps you can take when looking for a new home to ensure that energy is given its proper due.

Buying Central Air-Conditioning for Your Home

Central air-conditioning keeps you cool in the summer, controls humidity, and can help reduce the impact of allergies. This fact sheet offers tips and guidelines to help you maximize the benefits of your new or existing central air conditioner.



Choosing an Efficient Furnace

Are you in the market for a new forced-air gas furnace? Wisconsin's cold climate makes a high-efficiency furnace a good investment. Check out this fact sheet to learn what to look for in your new equipment, as well as operating tips to help you save money, improve comfort, and extend equipment life.

Cooling Basics for your Home

When summer temperatures hover around the "sizzle" mark, keeping cool is a priority. If you're in the market for a new central air or room air conditioner, this fact sheet offers information to help you choose your new equipment—as well as smart tips to help you keep your home cool and comfortable.

Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of fuels such as natural gas, liquefied petroleum (LP), gasoline, wood, and oil. Exposure to carbon monoxide can be fatal, so it's important to understand where it comes from and how to protect yourself and your family. Download this fact sheet to learn more.

Energy-Efficient Water Heaters

Did you know that next to space heating, water heaters are the second-largest energy user in a typical Wisconsin home? In this fact sheet, you'll learn about the different types of water heaters available today, how efficient they are, and other important basics.



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The power is within you.

Energy Savings Checklist for your Home

Understanding how and where energy is used in your home can help you make smart decisions that will improve comfort, reduce operating costs, increase your home's value, and help protect the environment. Download this fact sheet to learn more.

Heating your Home Safely with Wood

As home heating costs rise, many homeowners are looking for supplemental sources of heat. Wood is a popular option for many; fireplaces, stoves, and fireplace inserts are attractive as well as functional. In this fact sheet, we will look at the most popular ways to heat your home with wood—wood-burning fireplaces, fireplace inserts, and woodstoves—and examine the benefits and safety considerations of both.

Managing your Thermostat

Heating and cooling account for about half of your home's energy costs each year. Setting your thermostat to a lower temperature in the winter and a higher temperature in the summer will reduce your energy bills. Download this fact sheet for more cool tips to help you save energy and money, all year round.

Moisture in the Home

Excess moisture is the enemy of your home. It can lead to many types of water damage, including mold and mildew that can be hazardous to health and safety. Sources of excess moisture can include a leaky roof, deteriorated flashing, plumbing leaks, and gutters that don't drain properly. Another source is people. An average family of four can add two to three gallons of water into the air each day just through normal activities such as bathing, dishwashing, cooking, and breathing. To learn more about moisture problems and how to solve them, check out this fact sheet.

Remodeling with Energy Efficiency

Remodeling your home can be very rewarding, and it can help you save energy and money, too! Check out the fact sheet to learn how making energy-efficiency improvements can turn any remodeling project into a whole-house success.

The Basics of Air Sealing and Insulating your Home

Sealing and insulating a home's "building shell" or "envelope"—its outer walls, ceiling, windows, doors, and floors—is often the most cost-effective way to reduce energy bills and improve comfort. The national ENERGY STAR® program estimates that a skilled contractor can save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs (or up to 10 percent on the total annual energy bill) just by sealing and insulating. Download this fact sheet to learn more.

The Basics of Home Heating

Your home's heating system performs a simple yet important job—keeping your home warm during cold winter months. This fact sheet explains some of your home heating options, from forced-air furnaces and hot-water boilers to electric baseboard and space heaters—and offers important tips to help you get the most from your equipment.

Ventilating your Home

Fresh air is essential to the health and well-being of our homes, new and old, and of the people who occupy them. Properly installed and operated ventilation systems enable homeowners to enhance indoor air quality by diluting indoor pollutants and odors, controlling winter moisture levels, and providing air exchange as needed. Download this fact sheet to learn more.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Focus on Energy

Learn more about energy-efficiency and renewable energy solutions that can save you energy and money.

focusonenergy.com

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Discover information about a wide range of energy-efficiency and renewable energy topics, including heating, cooling, appliances, lighting, home moisture, indoor ventilation, and more.

www.energy.mn.gov

ENERGY STAR

The ENERGY STAR program offers information about high-performance appliances that will make your energy-efficient, renewable-ready home a reality.

energystar.gov

Building Science

Click "Homeowner Resources" to explore a range of articles, white papers, and more created to help homeowners build smarter.

buildingscience.com

Videos

See how your home will benefit from an energy evaluation. View the "Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Home Evaluation" video.

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Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not be completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information, call **800.762.7077** or visit **focusonenergy.com**.



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