



Tips on saving energy this summer

With higher home energy costs this year, it is especially important for residents to keep their homes cool and comfortable while managing their utility bills. Focus on Energy has developed some tips to make your home more efficient this summer.

KEEP YOUR COOL

Central air conditioners

To keep your central air conditioner at peak efficiency, it is important to keep it maintained. That means scheduling yearly maintenance and regularly checking the refrigerant charge as well as indoor and outdoor air coils.

Window air conditioners

Use a timer to turn on your air conditioner half an hour before you get home rather than running it while you are gone. Keep the filters clean. If possible, locate the unit in a window that is most central to the area you are cooling and on the shadiest side of the building.

Programmable thermostats

Setting back your thermostat or using a programmable thermostat allows homeowners to use less energy without sacrificing comfort when away from home during set periods of time throughout the week. Through proper use of a thermostat's set back mode, you can save up to \$100 every year in energy costs. Remember to keep the thermostat set at energy-saving temperatures for long periods of time, such as during the day when no one is home and through the night when you are sleeping. Resist the urge to override the pre-programmed settings. Every time you do, you use more energy and may end up paying more on your energy bill.

Ceiling fans

Used in combination with your air conditioner, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise your thermostat setting without reducing your comfort. The airflow produced by the ceiling fan creates a wind-chill effect, making you feel cooler. Be sure to turn the fan off when you're not in the room to save energy—ceiling fans cool people, not rooms.

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 in the home. Once the evaluation is complete, homeowners receive a report that identifies problems and recommends solutions.

Shades and drapes

Close draperies or shades on south- and west-facing windows to reduce solar heat gain. Install sun screens on the outside of windows to reflect solar gain while allowing a view. Sun screens can be removed in the winter to let solar heat in.

Landscaping

Landscaping is a natural and beautiful way to keep your home cool in summer. Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25 percent of a typical household's energy used for cooling. In addition to adding aesthetic value and environmental quality to your home, a well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce overall energy bills.

For more information,
call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

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OTHER WAYS TO SAVE

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)

Ninety percent of the energy used by an incandescent bulb makes heat. ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs produce a fraction of the heat, use 75 percent less energy, and last up to 10 times longer. By replacing the five light bulbs you use most with ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, homeowners can save about \$35 each year in energy costs.

Dishwashers

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

Look for the STAR

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

TAKE ACTION TODAY. SEE RESULTS TOMORROW.

Lower energy costs. A healthier home. Cleaner air and water. These are the results when Wisconsin residents tap into energy efficiency and renewable energy. To find out how you can reduce energy costs and improve the comfort, safety, and durability of your home, call Focus on Energy at **800.762.7077** or visit **focusonenergy.com**.

STAY CURRENT AND CONNECTED!

Join our online conversation at **focusonenergy.com/socialnetworks** to connect with people who share your interest in saving energy and money at home and work. Also, visit **focusonenergy.com/incentives** for the latest incentives and requirements as Focus offers are subject to change.

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**.

