

Save Money with Energy Efficiency

Remember that solar reduces your electric bill, it does not eliminate it. Combining solar with energy conservation can put more money in your pocket while also reducing your environmental footprint. Don't worry, reducing energy costs does not necessarily mean sacrificing comfort! Here are some tips you can implement in your house at little to no cost.



Set your refrigerator between 36°F and 40°F and freezer to 5°F



Choose fans and natural ventilation rather than using air conditioning



Switch to energy efficient lighting like LED bulbs



Put on a sweater and use natural light before turning on the heater



Use power strips and unplug appliances to reduce vampire loads



Saving hot water also helps save on your energy bills



Switch to energy-saving appliances throughout your home



Take advantage of discounts, rebates and free programs through your city or utility company

GRID ALTERNATIVES

Adjust your refrigerator temperature.

Set your refrigerator to 36-40°F and your freezer to 5°F to **save up to 15% more energy!**

Choose energy efficient lighting.

Switch to LED lighting. Start with the five most used lights in your home and you could **save approximately \$75** a year in energy costs. When possible, use the natural light from your windows instead of lights.*

Use power strips and surge protectors.

Everything in your home that is plugged in and emits a light or heat when not in use is wasting energy. To reduce these vampire loads, use power strips to turn off multiple electronics when not in use. If you must leave electronics on, activate energy-saving or sleep modes. By using power strips and unplugging your appliances to reduce your energy load, you could **save approximately \$100** a year in energy costs.*

Stay cool in the summer.

Home heating and cooling on average make up 43% of household energy usage! Instead of using the air conditioner, use fans and natural ventilation as much as possible to keep your home cool. If you have a thermostat, set the temperature to 78°F or higher. On extremely hot days, visit an air-conditioned facility or cooling center near you to keep your costs down.

Keep warm in the winter.

Open blinds and curtains to allow for sunlight to naturally heat your home. Close the blinds and curtains at night to keep your home warm. If you have a thermostat, set your temperature to 68°F or lower and wear something warm. Avoid electric space heaters as they consume a lot of energy and will drive up your bill!

Reduce your hot water use.

Wasting hot water also wastes the energy used to heat up that water so it's a double loss. Reduce your water use by taking shorter showers, fixing leaks and not letting faucets run unnecessarily.

Use energy saving appliances.

Don't skimp when you need a new appliance, verify how much energy the appliance will need to operate so you also save on the energy costs of operating the appliance. Using ENERGY STAR certified appliances throughout your home could help you **save approximately \$750** over the lifetime of the appliances.

Bill discounts and free programs.

Your utility or local government may offer **discounts, rebates and free energy efficiency programs** to help reduce your bill and increase comfort in your home. For example, if you live in California, the CARE, FERA, ESAP, Military Discount and Medical Baseline programs have helped many GRID clients.

- PG&E: 1-800-743-5000 or www.pge.com/assistance
- SCE: 1-800-798-5723 or www.sce.com/residential/assistance
- SDG&E: 1-800-411-7343 or www.sdge.com/assistance
- Pepco: Call 311 or www.doe.dc.gov/energyassistance
- Xcel: 1-800-895-4999 or www.xcelenergy.com/billing_and_payment/understanding_your_bill/energy_assistance_options

*Average annual savings based on Energy Information Administration estimates. Actual savings will vary.



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