



SAVE GREEN AND BE GREEN WITH THESE ENERGY-EFFICIENT TIPS FOR YOUR HOME



City of Columbus
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1. Compact fluorescent bulbs use less electricity and last much longer than incandescent bulbs. Please check proper disposal information on the package.
2. Turn off the television when no one is watching it.
3. Using a fireplace can allow you to turn down your furnace thermostat in the winter. Have fireplaces inspected annually and cleaned as needed.
4. Consider more permanent materials for flooring like wood or tile instead of carpet, which has to be eventually replaced and ends up in a landfill. Better yet, consider renewable materials such as cork or bamboo.
5. Use window blinds or curtains to block the sunlight in the summer to help keep the house cool and to help insulate against drafts in the winter.
6. When replacing a refrigerator, consider those with bottom drawer freezers, which are more energy efficient. When replacing any appliances, look for the Energy Star label. Defrost older models as needed to keep them running more efficiently.
7. Fix all faucet drips. Run dishwashers only when you have a full load and use the shorter cycle if possible to save electricity and water. If washing dishes by hand, be mindful of running water when it's not being used.
8. Maintain toilets so they don't waste water from leaks. Consider replacing old ones with newer low-flow models that save water.
9. Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth.
10. Replace older shower heads with newer low-flow models. You'll be singing in the shower with all the money you are saving! Remember, since sewer charges are based on water consumption, conserving water helps lower water and sewer bills.
11. Caulk cracks around windows to seal out drafts. Consider replacing older drafty windows with new windows that are more efficient.
12. Ceiling fans can help ventilate rooms and avoid the need for air conditioning. In the summer, air flow from the fan should direct down. The reverse setting is recommended in the winter, which can be particularly helpful with high ceilings.
13. Putting an extra blanket on the bed on cold nights can allow you to set the thermostat at a lower temperature, saving energy.
14. To be comfortable and control heating and cooling costs, dress warmly in the winter (even when indoors) and wear very light clothing in the summer.
15. When not using electronic devices, turn off or unplug. Beware of "energy vampires" that may continue to draw power unless unplugged, such as battery chargers.
16. If your employer allows you to work from home, doing so can save gasoline and help reduce air pollution. Use public transportation or bicycles whenever possible.
17. Front-loading washing machines use less water. Look for the Energy Star label.
18. Do laundry only with full loads on the shortest wash cycle. If a small load must be done, adjust the setting to the lower water level.
19. Clothes dryers can consume a lot of electricity. Set the timer for no longer than is needed. Consider replacing older models with more efficient ones. Clean the lint filter after each load for optimal efficiency. Better yet, hang dry laundry.
20. Change furnace filters once a month to promote efficient operation -- or to reduce waste, buy a reusable one that can be cleaned. Have furnaces inspected once a year and as problems arise. Consider replacing older models with new higher efficiency models. Adjust temperatures when you won't be home - programmable thermostats are helpful for this.

(continued from the other side)

21. Insulate water heaters with a tank blanket available at hardware stores. Set the temperature no higher than necessary. At replacement time, look for Energy Star models. For more efficiency, consider on-demand models, which heat water as it is used instead of keeping it hot. Solar powered water heaters are also available.

22. Turn off lights when a room isn't being used.

23. Keep chimney flue closed when fireplace is not in use. Lock-top chimney caps can be installed to prevent cold air from coming down the chimney.

24. Solar energy can be captured in solar panels to power a variety of things in the home. Check various web sites from an Internet search for ideas.

25. Trees can lower air conditioning costs by providing shade and also help air quality.

26. Permeable pavement allows for water infiltration into the ground, reducing stormwater runoff, providing a water quality benefit.

27. Sweep debris off driveways instead of flushing with a hose.

28. Maintain vehicles to prevent leaking fluids from being washed into storm drains and entering the nearest stream.

29. Capture rainwater in a rain barrel to water plants and flowers during dry spells.

30. Rain gardens are an attractive way to reduce stormwater runoff and filter pollutants.

31. Prairies are an attractive, low maintenance and environmentally friendly landscape choice that reduces the amount of grass to be mowed, saving gasoline and helping air pollution.

32. In landscaping, use perennial flowers and plants native to our area for best success! Perennials and native plants usually require less water and maintenance.

33. Remove pet waste from your yard to prevent the bacteria from getting into storm and ground water.

34. Encourage beneficial bugs to help sustain healthy plants, such as lady bugs and bees.

35. Use pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers only when needed and follow all application directions carefully to avoid excess materials going into stormwater.

36. Pick up litter to prevent it from washing into stormwater and local streams.

37. Mow the grass only as needed and please avoid doing it on ozone alert days when air quality is already a concern. Agencies to check with include the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission or Columbus Public Health.

38. To maintain a healthy and green lawn, normally one inch of water a week is enough. Sprinklers should be used only as needed, not set on a timer, which may come on during the rain. Call 311 or 645-3111 for a free watering gauge.

39. Using Com-Til composting and mulch products can add valuable organic materials to develop healthy plants and helps retain moisture in your garden.

40. Recommendations for attic insulation have changed over the years. Experts say if you can see the rafters exposed to add more insulation. Contact a professional for advice.

41. Consider trading in your gas guzzler for a more fuel-efficient car. Many models are also available as hybrids.

42. Recycle all recyclable materials consumed at your home such as plastic, paper, glass and metal. Call 311 or 645-3111 for more information.



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