

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

## FOR YOUR HOME

Regardless of the temperature or the price of fuel, the less energy you use to heat your home, the more you will save. Whether you own a home or rent an apartment, there are simple affordable steps you can take to reduce your energy consumption and lower your utility bills.

### **Weatherize and insulate your home.**

- A well-insulated attic has the best potential to save energy.
- Insulate and seal heating and cooling ducts. Poorly sealed ducts can waste 10-30% of your total energy costs.
- Seal cracks around windows and doors.
- Insulate outside walls, as well as floors over unheated basements and crawl spaces.
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### **Lower your thermostat when you are not at home and at night.**

- Install a programmable thermostat that will automatically lower and raise the temperature.
- Set your thermostat at 65 degrees or lower at night and 55 degrees when you are away.
- You can save 20% or more on your heating cost by lowering your thermostat 10 degrees for two-hour periods during the day.
- For each degree you lower the setting on your thermostat, you can save about 3% on your heating bill.

## **Have your heating system checked and change your furnace filter.**

- Have your heating system checked before each heating season.
- Clean or replace your filter once a month or as needed. A dirty filter will slow air flow and require the furnace to run longer to heat a home.
- Seal heating ductwork. Air leakage from areas such as joints, elbows and connections can be substantial.
- Shut heat off to any unused storage areas and close vents to any unused bedroom (they can be reopened when a guest visits).

## **Improve the efficiency of your water heater.**

- Lower your water temperature to 120 degrees or 140 degrees if you use a dishwasher.
- Wrap your water heater. Heating water accounts for about 14% of your energy bill.
- Insulate hot water pipes, especially in circulating systems, with foil-faced, fiberglass insulation or foam insulation sleeves.
- Install aerators on faucets and use low-flow showerheads.
- Use cold or warm water for laundry when possible.

## **Use appliances wisely and shop for Energy Star appliances.**

- Look for appliances with the EnergyStar label because they can save you 30% on your electric and/or gas bills.
- Set your refrigerator temperature at 38 to 40 degrees and your freezer at 0 to 5 degrees.
- Don't pre-heat your own longer than necessary.
- Load your dishwasher and washing machine to capacity – but don't overload when possible.