

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

DuPage Habitat for Humanity, College of DuPage, and ComEd are collaborating on a three-year green partnership to develop 11 new homes in the Pioneer Prairie neighborhood of West Chicago, a residential subdivision in DuPage County. The implementation of low- and no-cost energy efficiency measures will allow 11 limited-income families to purchase attainable, sustainable homes.

To help all customers become smart energy consumers, the project's partners have developed the following simple tips to help customers go green and save green. For more tips, tricks, and tools, visit [www.ComEd.com](http://www.ComEd.com).

### INSTANT SAVINGS

- When you're not surfing the Web, turn off your computer or put it in "sleep" mode.
- Utilize ceiling fans for optimized comfort and energy savings. During winter, blades should spin in reverse to redistribute warm air around the room. In summer, blades should spin forward.
- Keep fireplace dampers closed tightly when not in use.
- Enroll in ComEd's Central AC Cycling program, which allows ComEd to remotely cycle customers' air conditioner compressors on and off during peak demand times. Participants save energy and earn bill credits up to \$10 per month during summer months.
- Make sure heating and cooling vents are not covered by furniture or window drapes.
- Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer with a full load, and use cold water if possible.
- Sign up for ComEd's Appliance Recycling program and get paid \$25 to have it picked up. ComEd will ensure it's recycled in an environmentally responsible way.
- Turn off lights when not in use – it can lead to noticeable savings in your energy bill.
- Unplug non-essential devices when not in use – many use electricity even when turned off.
- Only heat and cool rooms you use; close vents and doors to rooms that are not being used.
- Vacuum or clean all heating vents to allow air to flow more efficiently throughout the home.
- Decide what you want before you open the fridge.
- When possible, make use of natural light to read or illuminate your home.

### NO-COST

- For energy-saving tips customized for your home, use the ComEd Home Energy Analysis Tool, available at [www.ComEd.com](http://www.ComEd.com).
- Snuggle in a sweater or blanket before hiking up the heat, and in the summer, install window fans instead of cranking the AC.
- In the summer, keep your home at the warmest temperature comfortable for you.
- When leaving home for more than four hours, raise the thermostat 5 to 10 degrees in summer and lower 5 to 10 degrees in winter. Do the same at night before going to bed.
- During hot summer days, close south-, east-, and west-facing curtains to keep out solar heat.
- Clean the coils at the back of your refrigerator twice a year to ensure it runs efficiently – any accumulation should be wiped away so the copper tubes can be cooled properly.
- When running the air conditioning, keep windows closed and shades down.
- If you're running an old refrigerator in your basement or garage, unplug it – old refrigerators can use three times the electricity of modern ones.
- In the summer, do laundry and run the dishwasher at night. The heat produced by these energy-intensive appliances won't need to be offset by the air conditioner during the day.

**Additional tips can be found at [www.ComEd.com](http://www.ComEd.com)**

- Keep lamps and televisions away from the thermostat. The heat they generate will cause your air conditioner to work harder.

## LOW-COST

- Visit ComEd's Online Energy Store at [www.ComEd.com](http://www.ComEd.com) for an array of energy efficiency products. ComEd customers receive 20 percent off all purchases.
- Plug electronic devices into a power strip that can be turned on and off as needed. Most devices still draw power when turned off, adding up to 10 percent to monthly electric bills.
- When you're out of your house or sleeping, use a programmable thermostat to automatically raise the temperature 5 to 10 degrees in summer and lower 5 to 10 degrees in winter.
- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with CFL bulbs, which use 75 percent less energy and last 10 times longer. CFL bulbs have come a long way since inception, and now are available in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and softness of light.
- Install electric timers on exterior lighting, small appliances, and room air conditioners.
- If you have any exposed ductwork in your house, seal all joints with a caulk, such as mastic, and install weather stripping on all doors and windows. Otherwise, heating and cooling could escape before getting where it's supposed to go.
- Check and clean air conditioning filters monthly and replace as needed.
- Consider installing low-flow showerheads and sink aerators to reduce hot water use.
- When buying new appliances, electronics and other products, look for the ENERGY STAR. Products that have earned the ENERGY STAR meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

## CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

- Consumer electronics account for 15 percent of household energy use, so be sure to look for the ENERGY STAR when purchasing electronics.
- Unplug unnecessary electronics. The U.S. Department of Energy indicates 75 percent of electricity used to power home electronics is consumed when they are turned off, adding up to 10 percent to electric bills.
- Plug electronics into power strips, and turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use. Please note that while unplugging DVRs can save money, the device will not be able to record programs while turned off, and program scheduling may need to be reset.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use. Alternatively, set to hibernation or sleep mode rather than using screen savers, which do not save as much energy.
- Use a power strip for multiple battery chargers and switch it off when not charging.
- When preparing to travel out of town, unplug all non-essential devices.
- Unplug the charger for cordless phones, portable music players, or other portable devices after they are recharged.

## LANDSCAPING

- Plant trees to the south, east, and west of your home to reduce the impact of solar heat.
- Trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures by up to 9 degrees.
- Trees that lose their leaves in the autumn allow the sun to warm your home in the winter while providing solar protection during the summer.
- Depending on plant species and the size and type of your home, a 6- to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near your home may begin shading windows and walls as early as the first year.
- Place your air conditioner in the shade, or plant a tree nearby, to reduce energy use by up to 10 percent.
- Be sure to allow at least 3 feet of open air between the air conditioner and any shrubs or trees to ensure proper airflow. Blocked air conditioners have a harder time taking in air to cool the home, which increases energy costs.

Additional tips can be found at [www.ComEd.com](http://www.ComEd.com)

- Consider adding a trellis or lattice with climbing vines or a planter box with trailing vines alongside your house. Vines begin providing shade for walls during their first growing season.

## **LIGHTING**

- Lighting accounts for about 10 percent of energy usage in the average home, so remember to turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Replace regularly used incandescent bulbs with CFL bulbs – each bulb could save you up to \$72 on your electric bills over its lifetime. ComEd residential customers now can purchase certain high-efficiency, ENERGY STAR® CFL bulbs at a discount at select retailers. Visit [www.ComEd.com](http://www.ComEd.com) for a list of all participating stores.
- Install dimmer switches on lights throughout your home. Dimmers can reduce energy costs and create a more pleasant light for most occasions. Not all CFL bulbs are compatible with dimmer switches, so check before you buy.
- If you have outdoor security lighting, install motion sensors that turn lighting on only when movement is detected.
- Install low-cost occupancy sensors that automatically turn off lights when you leave a room. Occupancy sensors typically range in cost from \$25 to \$75 and can be purchased from local hardware or home improvement stores.
- If your home has floor lamps that use halogen bulbs, consider an alternate light source – they are some of the biggest energy users in the home. Replace them with ENERGY STAR-rated floor lamps for rapid energy savings.
- When possible, take advantage of natural light to illuminate your room.

## **WINTERIZING**

- Open blinds or curtains of sun-exposed rooms during the day to allow solar heating to warm the rooms. Close them at night to keep heat in the house.
- Replace the filter for your heat pump or furnace before the heating season, and check its condition monthly. Look through the filter toward a light – if it's dark and opaque, it should be replaced. Home heating systems should also be cleaned and inspected each year to ensure safety and optimum efficiency.
- Make sure your home is fully insulated, with at least 6 to 10 inches of insulation in the attic.
- Purchase an insulating wrap for home water heaters, and make sure water pipes and exterior walls are well insulated. Insulation is a cost effective way to increase the home's comfort and energy efficiency. Please follow safety requirement for proper installation.
- Inspect the caulking and weather stripping around all windows, doors, and any opening for utility services. Replace caulking and weather stripping as necessary. A drafty house lets warm air escape and is much more costly to heat.
- Remove window air conditioners or install an air conditioner cover to eliminate drafts.
- Install an ENERGY STAR-rated programmable thermostat, which will automatically adjust your home's temperature when you are sleeping or at work. Thermostats with the ENERGY STAR are pre-programmed with four temperature settings, which can be modified to suit your comfort and lifestyle. Be sure the thermostat is compatible with your home's heating system.

**Additional tips can be found at [www.ComEd.com](http://www.ComEd.com)**