

GREEN TIPS

FOR AN ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME



Below is a list of energy conservation tips promoted by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) on how to save energy at home. All of these tips can assist you in making your home as energy efficient as possible while saving you money. Puget Sound Energy currently offers an excellent conservation program. Once Jefferson PUD is a part of the BPA family of power providers, it will work hard to promote energy conservation in Jefferson County. BPA offers its wholesale utility customers financial incentives to implement aggressive conservation programs, and Jefferson PUD plans to assist our customers and the region benefit from these program offerings. Please feel free to provide your PUD with feedback in what you want from your power provider.

Home Appliance Tips

- 1.** Maintain the right temperature in your refrigerator and freezer. Refrigerators can use up to 20 percent of the total electricity in your home. The refrigerator should be set between 38°F (3°C) and 42°F (6°C). The freezer should be set between 0°F (-31°C) and 5°F (-26°C).
- 2.** Keep them full. A full refrigerator takes less energy than an empty one. Fill extra space with gallon jugs of water placed in the back of both the freezer and refrigerator.
- 3.** Clean the condenser coils. Dust and pet hair can build up and cause the refrigerator motor to work harder. Clean them at least twice a year. The coils are located on the bottom or the back side of most models.
- 4.** The doors should close tightly and stay closed. Check the seals for cracks or worn areas. If there are any, replace them.
- 5.** Open the refrigerator door as little as possible. Every time the door opens, warm air rushes in.
- 6.** Let food cool. Don't place hot or even warm food directly inside the refrigerator. Let it cool first.
- 7.** Always cover everything. Humidity escapes from uncovered foods. The compressor must work harder to remove the excess humidity.
- 8.** Defrost food in the refrigerator. Instead of defrosting food on the counter where it may spoil, place it in the refrigerator 24 hours before you need it. This will help keep the temperature down in the refrigerator while it thaws.
- 9.** Replace appliances with energy-efficient models. When old models wear out, replace them with appliances that have earned the Energy Star label.
- 11.** Choose the right pan for the job. When using the range top, remember to match the pan with the similar sized heating element.
- 12.** Use all appliances wisely. TVs, radios, computers and vacuum cleaners use relatively small amounts of electricity. But they add up. Don't leave on appliances when they are not in use.
- 13.** Wash only full loads in the dishwasher.

14. Wash clothes in cold water. Use cold temperature detergents, and always have a full load. Also, 15 minutes of presoaking and 5 minutes of agitation get clothes cleaner than 15 minutes of agitation.
15. Don't over-dry clothes in the dryer. Consider using drying clothes racks in the house or resurrect grandmother's clothesline outside during nice weather.

Water, Window & Door Tips

1. Add energy-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators. These can reduce the amount of water released from a tap by up to 50 percent, which means less hot water needs to be heated.
2. Heat water to the right temperature. The recommended temperature is 120°F (49°C).
3. Repair leaks at once. A dripping faucet can waste 6-10 gallons (23-38 liters) of water a day. Replace worn-out washers.
4. Insulate hot and cold water pipes. If pipes are exposed beneath your home, insulate them with special pipe-insulating foam, or tape a standard insulation blanket around them. Keep cold pipes from freezing and hot pipes hot.
5. Turn your water heater off when you're on vacation. If you plan to be away for more than five days, turn your water heater off. Post a reminder to turn it on when returning.
6. Use drapes to insulate. Keep drapes closed to keep warm air in. Open drapes to allow the sun's rays to help warm rooms.
7. Take a shower instead of a bath. The average bath uses twice as much hot water as a 5-minute shower.
8. Turn faucets off when not using the water. Running water non-stop during shaving or brushing teeth is wasteful. Turn on the faucet when necessary and save thousands of gallons of water a year plus energy needed to heat it.
9. Apply weather stripping to stop drafts around doors and windows. Beneath doors, install common draft guards available at most hardware stores. Add weather stripping to window and doorframes.
10. Caulk smaller gaps. Many homes have cracks and leaks that are equal to a 2' x 2' open window.
11. Double insulate windows. Storm windows are an effective energy saver for leaky windows. An economical alternative is plastic sheeting.

Lighting Tips

1. Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs in light fixtures used the most. The normal incandescent bulbs we're all used to are not very energy efficient. Compact fluorescent bulbs use about 25 percent of the energy and can last 10 times as long.
3. Use outdoor motion detectors and timers where appropriate. Instead of leaving outdoor lights on all night, let these handy devices turn them on when they detect motion. Position the sensor carefully to avoid false triggering. With motion detectors, use the lowest wattage incandescent bulb that will do the job. If security is a concern, leave a low-wattage porch light on all night.
4. Use low-wattage CFLs where applicable. For example, bright lights are rarely necessary in

closets and hallways. Switch to low-wattage CFLs and save some energy.

5. Dust off light bulbs. Dirty, greasy, smoky light bulbs can reduce light output by as much as 10 percent. Dust bulbs and lenses regularly. (Make sure they are cool before touching them.) You'll avoid the tendency of switching to a higher wattage bulb, which will use more energy.
6. Remove unnecessary lighting. Use only the number of bulbs needed to light an area. In track lighting, three bulbs can usually do the same job as four if they are positioned accurately.
7. Use light from windows. Natural light is more efficient than electric, not to mention free. When you're not frolicking in your pajamas, leave the curtains open.
8. Paint and decorate in light colors. Dark colors absorb light. Light colors reflect light. The lighter the colors, the less artificial lighting is required to illuminate the area.
9. Use timers when on vacation. Not only will it save energy when lights are on timers, but burglars and prowlers will have no idea that you're in the Bahamas basking in the sun. Set your timer to turn lights on and off at different times on different days. Your home looks more lived in this way.
10. Install dimmers in areas where dimmed lighting makes sense, like the dining room.
11. Check your lamp shades. Many shades are decorative but absorb light or reflect it in the wrong direction. Consider switching to a more efficient shade in a lighter color.
12. Use task lighting. If you're working specifically at a desk or workbench, other light in the room could be turned off or dimmed.

Heating Tips

1. Pay attention to the thermostat. A few degrees can make a difference in your heating bill. Set the thermostat between 65° and 68°F (18° to 20°C).
2. Add extra insulation. In areas that are accessible, such as attics and crawl spaces, add an extra layer of insulation. Consult an expert or utility representative to determine the appropriate amount to add.
3. Keep heating vents unobstructed. Check ducts which sometimes become blocked by furniture or other items.
4. Clean filters monthly. Forced air furnaces filters trap dirt and dust that should be cleaned or replaced regularly.
5. Close chimney dampers. An open chimney might act as a suction pipe, pulling warm air out of the house. Close the damper as soon as the fire is completely out.
6. Use sweaters and blankets. Encourage family members to dress warmly.
7. Circulate heated air. Since warm air rises to the highest areas, a ceiling fan at a low speed helps distribute warm air in the house.
8. Keep drapes and blinds closed. Drapes add an extra layer of insulation. If you don't need the outside light, leave them closed. Turn blind louvers down toward the ground outside to divert rising heat back into the room.
9. Check heat ducts for leaks. Where accessible, feel ducts for cracks or leaks and seal leaks with foil-backed tape. Ducts in unheated areas should also be insulated where possible.

Cooling Tips

1. Keep air conditioner filters clean. Air conditioner filters should be cleaned or replaced once a month during use.
2. Maintain unobstructed airflow around vents and filters.
3. Maintain 78°F (26°C). For every degree you lower the temperature, the energy costs rise by 6 percent. A temperature setting of 75°F (24°C) costs 18 percent more; a 72°F (22°C) setting costs 36 percent more.
4. Use a programmable thermostat. No need to run the air conditioner when no one is home. Set timers to have the air conditioning come on 30 minutes before anyone arrives home.
5. Keep doors closed. Enter and exit your home quickly to keep cooled air in the house.
6. Install a ceiling fan in rooms that are used often. Occupants feel as cool under a ceiling fan at 82°F (28°C) as in 77°F (25°C) still air.
7. Insulation is important. Make sure your home has the appropriate amount of insulation in walls, attics and crawl spaces.
8. Open windows at night. To take advantage of naturally cool night air when possible.
9. Plant deciduous shade trees. Shade trees absorb radiant heat before it warms your house, and planting trees helps clean the air, too.

From Bonneville Power Administration Energy Efficiency website:

<http://www.bpa.gov/energy/n/>

We need your feedback! Tell us what you want in an energy efficiency program.

For more information about JPUD, or email contact info go to our website at:

<http://www.jeffpud.org> or <http://pud.co.jefferson.wa.us/>

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