

No-Cost and Low-Cost Ways to Save Energy and Money at Home

Corvallis Energy Advocate Program - www.energizecorvallis.org

Heating and Cooling

- Install programmable thermostats and adjust so temperature goes down to 58-60 in the winter at night and when no one is home. (Annual Energy Savings: 450 kWh, 45 therms)
- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer.
- Clean or replace filters on furnaces annually; get a tune-up. (220 kWh, 25 therms)
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes of showering or cooking and vacuum vents annually. (15 kWh)
- Use fans to cool your home. (240 kWh)
- Shade your air-conditioning thermostat if it gets direct sunlight; avoid having TVs or lamps next to thermostat.

Weatherizing

- Seal holes or cracks throughout your home. (Annual Energy Savings: 90 kWh, 9 therms)
- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air; seeing daylight is a leak. (180 kWh, 18 therms)
- Use curtains / blinds to keep heat in during the winter and out during the summer. (45 kWh, 5 therms)
- Tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames in the winter months. (510 kWh, 16 therms)
- Remove window air conditioners in the winter or seal them with a tight-fitting cover.
- Block crawl space vents with foam blocks in the fall and remove in the spring.

Fireplace

- If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue. (540 kWh, 54 therms)
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is going. (135 kWh, 14 therms)
- Install tempered glass doors. (135 kWh, 14 therms)

Lighting

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room. (16 kWh)
- Replace incandescent and halogen lamps with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). (990 kWh)
- Use task lighting; instead of lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it. (23 kWh)
- Take advantage of daylight by using light-colored, loose-weave curtains on your windows to allow daylight to penetrate the room while preserving privacy. (8 kWh)
- Install motion sensors and/or photocells on outdoor lights. (164 kWh)

Refrigerator

- Check the temperature; recommended 37° to 40°F for refrigerator and 5°F for the freezer section. Freezers for long-term storage should be kept at 0°F. (60 kWh)
- Regularly defrost manual-defrost refrigerators and freezers.
- Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight, it should have some grip when you pull on it. (12 kWh)
- Using a vacuum with a brush attachment, clean the coils behind or under your refrigerator annually. (120 kWh)
- Unplug rarely used refrigerators and recycle if not needed. (300 kWh)

Hot Water

- Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads. (820 kWh, 28 therms)
- Limit showers to 5 minutes. (680 kWh, 23 therms)
- Repair leaky faucets promptly. (1 year leak – 5475 gallons of water and 70 kWh to treat water)
- Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120°F. (220 kWh, 15 therms)
- Insulate the first 6 feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater. (480 kWh, 22 therms)

Laundry

- Wash your clothes in cold or warm water and rinse with cold water. (600 kWh, 20 therms)
- Wash and dry full loads. (12 kWh, 3.5 therms)
- Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation. (163 kWh)
- Use the cool-down cycle to finish drying with residual heat in the dryer. (150 kWh)
- Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked.
- Consider air-drying clothes on clothes lines or drying racks. (410 kWh, 13 therms)

Dishwasher

- Scrape, don't rinse, off large food pieces from dishes. (570 kWh, 13 therms)
- Be sure your dishwasher is full, but not overloaded, when you run it. (40 kWh, 25 therms)
- Don't use the drying cycle; let your dishes air dry. (125 kWh)

Other Kitchen Items

- Use a covered kettle or pan to boil water; it's faster and it uses less energy.
- Match the size of the pan to the heating element. (55 kWh)
- Use small electric pans or toaster ovens for small meals rather than large stove. (182 kWh)
- Be sure to place the faucet lever on the kitchen sink in the cold position when using small amounts of water.
- In natural gas appliances, look for blue flames; yellow flames indicate the gas is burning inefficiently and an adjustment may be needed.

Home Office

- Use a power strip or unplug electronics when not in use. (60 kWh)
- Turn off computer, monitor and printer over nights. (1035 kWh)
- Use power saving options to put computer into sleep during periods of non-use. (50 kWh)