



# Energy Conservation

## FAST FACTS:



- The typical US family spends at least \$2,000 a year on home utility bills.
- The 113 million residences in America today collectively use an estimated 22% of the country's energy.
- Much of this energy is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances, or inefficient heating and cooling systems.
- New Jersey's Energy Master Plan has a goal of reducing energy consumption in homes by 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.
- It costs approximately \$2.55 per year to light one room for one hour each day.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

You can help! We can work together to conserve energy and lower energy bills by up to 25% using these tips.

1. **Lights out!** Turn lights off when you leave the room.
2. **Avoid vampire power.** Plug "leaking energy" in electronics by using a power strip. Many new TVs, VCRs, chargers, computer peripherals and other electronics use electricity even when they are switched "off."
3. **Perform a home energy assessment.** The assessment (energy audit) will test for air leakage, adequacy of insulation and efficiency of your heating system. It will also include health and safety checks for gas leaks, carbon monoxide and make sure your gas and oil appliances are exhausting properly.
4. **Put your computer to sleep.** Set computer to sleep mode if you're away from your machine for 5 to 15 minutes. When you're done using your computer, turn it off; do not leave it in sleep mode overnight as it is still drawing a small amount of power.
5. **Use EnergyStar® Appliances.** When buying new appliances, choose ENERGY STAR-certified models. A new ENERGY STAR clothes washer uses nearly 50% less energy than a standard washer, while an ENERGY STAR refrigerator uses about 20 percent less energy than a standard new refrigerator. If upgrading to an ENERGY STAR refrigerator, recycle the old refrigerator through the NJ Clean Energy Program.
6. **Use CFL or LED lighting.** Choose Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) bulbs or light-emitting diode (LED) lamps.
7. **Set the thermostat.** Install a smart thermostat or set a timer so that the heat temperature is lower or the air conditioning temperature is higher when you are not home.
8. **Seal the leaks.** Seal the leaks in windows, door frames, and where pipes, vents, or electrical conduits.
9. **Reduce hot water temperature.** Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120° F.
10. **Insulate.** Install or upgrade insulation.
11. **Replace your existing heating and air conditioning systems with high efficiency units.** A minimum of 14.5 SEER for air conditioning and 95% for heating are recommended.
12. **Replace your windows with high efficiency windows.** A maximum U-value of 0.26 for double pane and 0.15 for triple pane are recommended.
13. **Vegetate to cool.** Vegetation including street trees and green roofs can lower air temperature and conserve energy. Adopt a street tree, plant native landscaping, or install stormwater planters or rain gardens.
14. **Install solar panels.** Reduce energy demand through the tips above, and increase supply from renewables.

## LEARN MORE:

NJ Clean Energy Program <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/residential/programs/home-performance-energy-star/benefits-and-incentives>  
 US DOE EnergySavers Program [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)  
 Energy Star Appliances <http://www.energystar.gov/>  
 PS&G Energy Conservation Tips [https://www.pseg.com/home/save/manage\\_costs/index.jsp](https://www.pseg.com/home/save/manage_costs/index.jsp)