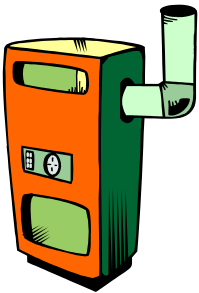




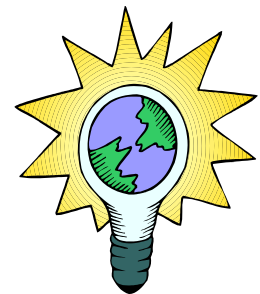
## ***Ways to Cut Home Heating Costs and Conserve Energy***

- ✓ Keep windows closed during cold weather but air out your house on a regular basis.
- ✓ Weather – strip doors and windows. This could help cut your heat loss in half.
- ✓ Close off any rooms that you do not use.
- ✓ Seal gaps around pipes, wires, vents, or any other openings where heat can escape.
- ✓ Make sure to have your furnace serviced before you use it for the first time in cold weather. This could amount to savings of up to \$400.00. Also, keep the parts of your furnace clean and replace air filters when necessary. Clean filters can add up to a savings of almost \$60 a year.
- ✓ Keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use.
- ✓ Cut down on using kitchen and bathroom fans. The fans cool the air and waste household heat. Cover pots and pans when heating liquids. Use cooking utensils with flat bottoms and tight fitting lids to save heat. Make sure that pots and pans are the right size for range burners.
- ✓ Do not open the oven often while you are cooking. You lose 20-50% of heat each time you open the door and slow down the cooking process. After using the oven, open the door to allow interior heat to help increase room temperature.



- ✓ Do not use the stove for heating. It does not do a good job and can be dangerous.
- ✓ NEVER use open flames or candles for heating. Fire damage is much more expensive than the heating bills.
- ✓ Check with your local electric company to see if they have times during the day when their rates are lower. Use appliances during these times to avoid peak hour rates.
- ✓ Consider putting in storm or thermal windows. A layer of air between window panes acts as insulation and keeps the heat inside.
- ✓ Consider installing ceiling fans. Running ceiling fans slowly and in reverse keeps warm air circulating.

- ✓ Think about installing a tankless water heater. These heaters create hot water on demand instead of running all the time. They can run between \$500 - \$700. For more information on tankless water heaters, visit [www.controlledenergy.com](http://www.controlledenergy.com).
- ✓ Do not leave lights, appliances, TV's, stereos, or other electrical items on when you are not in the room. If you are going to be gone for more than five minutes, turn them off.
- ✓ Compact fluorescent light bulbs last up to 7 years and use 75% less electricity than a regular bulb. You can find these at Town Hardware in Black Mountain.
- ✓ Use cold or warm water when washing your clothes and always wash a full load.
- ✓ Dry full loads of clothes and make sure to clean out the lint trap after each use.
- ✓ However, try to line dry clothes whenever possible.
- ✓ Turn computers and printers off at the power strip at home and at the office (if permissible).
- ✓ Insulate, weather – strip, or caulk to prevent leaks in windows and doors.
- ✓ Use window treatments such as blinds, curtains, tinting, etc. to let heat out in the summer and to keep heat in in the winter.
- ✓ Use low-flow shower heads and take shorter showers rather than baths.
- ✓ Use a microwave instead of a conventional oven or stove whenever you can.
- ✓ Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120\*.
- ✓ Don't wash dishes with the hot water running continuously.
- ✓ Old refrigerators use up to 50% more electricity than newer models. Look at the energy ratings when buying any new appliance.
- ✓ Water heaters can account for nearly ¼ of a home's energy source. About 75% of water used in homes is used in the bathroom.
- ✓ Talk to Progress Energy about other suggestions for saving money. You can do an energy audit online and get other suggestions at [www.progress-energy.com](http://www.progress-energy.com). Links on their on their website:



Energy Neighbor Fund: <http://www.progress-energy.com/community/enf.asp>

Energy Saving Tips: <http://www.progress-energy.com/custservice/carres/energytips/index.asp>

Home Energy On-Line Check: <http://www.progress-energy.com/custservice/carres/saving/energycheck/index.asp>

Lower My Bill Toolkit: <http://www.progress-energy.com/custservice/carres/billtoolkit/index.asp>

Energy Efficient Home Program (new construction): <http://www.progress-energy.com/custservice/carres/energyhome/index.asp>