

Make Energy Conservation your New Year's Resolution



Make a New Year's Resolution this year that is easy to keep. Making a few simple modifications to your daily routine can help you save money and also help conserve electricity! Rising energy prices over the past year should help us to think harder about when and how we use energy.

Energy conservation never goes out of style. Not a month goes by when this publication doesn't print something on how to conserve energy: tips for watching and controlling the operation of heat pumps and water heaters, how to plug energy leaks in homes, or how to judge the efficiency of appliances.

Why? It just makes sense. It makes sense to our member-consumers, considering that you own the utility that supplies your electric power. It's in your best interest to make sure your own plan includes conservative ways of using electricity and all other forms of energy you pay for.

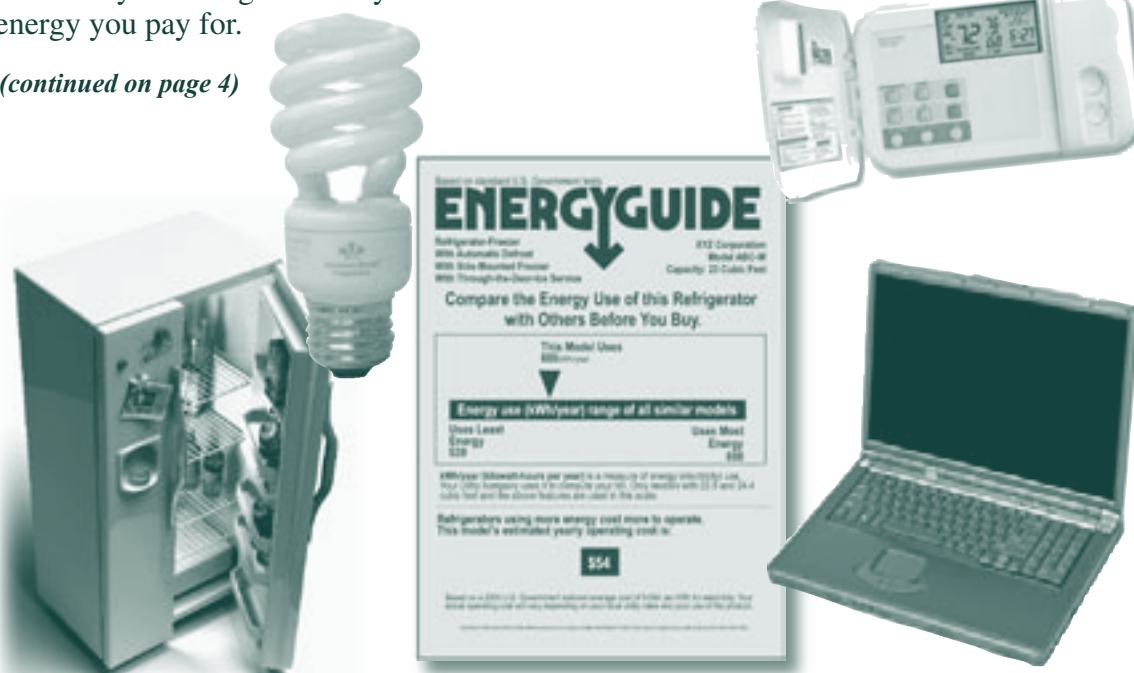
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Simple steps you can take everyday to start 2007 off right

- ▶ Open your curtains to let sunshine warm your home
- ▶ Close them at night to keep the warmth in
- ▶ Buy and install CFL's (compact fluorescent lamps) in any light fixtures you use more than a few hours a day. Traditional light bulbs use three times more electricity
- ▶ Save energy by turning off lights and appliances when you leave a room.
- ▶ Turn off your home computer while it is not being used.
- ▶ Keep the thermostat set to 68 degrees, and set it back even more when you are sleeping or away from your home. By turning your thermostat one degree, you can save up to 3 percent on your heating bill.
- ▶ Air-dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.

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Energy Conservation (continued from cover)

Making long-term changes in your home is important too!

- ▼ *What is the condition of the exterior of your home?* Repair any broken windows, loose siding, or missing trim before you do anything else. You'll spend extra money on energy each month if outdoor air is whistling through your home.
- ▼ *How much insulation do you have in your attic?* Attic insulation keeps your home warm in winter and cool in summer. More is always better, install at least 10 to 12 inches (R-30).
- ▼ *Has your furnace or air conditioner been serviced lately?* Periodic service can improve their efficiency and extend their lifespans. If you hire a professional technician, ask about simple maintenance tasks you can perform yourself.

- ▼ *How old is your refrigerator?* The newest refrigerators take advantage of technology that cuts their consumption to one-quarter of older units. Shop for an ENERGY STAR® rated refrigerator to get the most efficient models.

Home Electronics

If you live in a typical U.S. home, your appliances and home electronics are responsible for about 20% of your energy bills.

- ▼ Consider buying a laptop for your next home computer upgrade; they use less energy than desktop computers.
- ▼ There is a common misconception that screen savers reduce energy used by monitors; they do not. Automatic switching to sleep mode or manually turning off monitors is always the better energy-saving strategy.

- ▼ ENERGY STAR computers and monitors save energy only when the power management features are activated, so make sure power management is activated on your home computer.
- ▼ Much of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. This can be avoided by unplugging the appliance (such as stereo or TV) or using a power strip and using the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the appliance.

Go to www.energystar.gov or www.energyhog.org for more information.



Kill A Watt Electricity usage monitor

Kill A Watt "empowers" you to save hundreds on utility costs

Have you ever wondered how much electricity a specific appliance uses daily, weekly, annually? This electricity usage monitor called "Kill A Watt" allows you to plug in your appliances and it will assess how efficient they really are. Large LCD display will count consumption by the kilowatt-hour just like your local utility company. The knowledge you gain from Kill A Watt can save you thousands of dollars.

You can purchase Kill A Watt from Hawkeye REC for \$35 plus tax.