

Easy Ways to Save Energy and Cut Your Bills



No-Cost

- Reduce your hot water heater temperature to 120°F to both conserve energy and prevent scalding.
- Air-dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle. Open the door slightly to allow air to circulate.
- Use power strips to plug in computers, TV's, DVD players, and other electronic devices, and switch the power strips off when not in use.
- Turn off lights and electronics when you leave a room for more than a few minutes.
- Wash clothes in cold water. Most of the energy used in washing machines is from heating the water.
- If you have a fireplace or woodstove, keep the flue damper completely closed when not in use.
- Use a clothes line or drying rack instead of the dryer.
- Set your thermostat as low as comfortably possible in winter and as high as possible in summer.
- During the winter, open shades/curtains in south and west windows during the day. Close shades/curtains at sunset.
- During the summer, close shades/curtains during the day to reduce solar heat gain.
- Check filters on furnaces every month and clean or replace as needed.

Low-Cost

- Get an energy audit! Check with your utility to see if you qualify for a free audit.
- Seal around plumbing, ductwork, and wiring, and behind outlets and switch plates.
- Add insulation to your attic. It's one of the greatest sources of energy loss yet is easily accessed to improve household efficiency. Be sure the hatch door is insulated and well-sealed, too.
- Insulate hot water tanks and the first 5 feet of hot and cold water pipes connected to the tank.
- Replace light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's), LED's, or other high-efficiency bulbs.
- Install lighting controls, such as timers or motion sensors.
- When replacing appliances or water-using fixtures, consider more efficient models first, which often are the cheapest option considering energy costs as well.
- Install programmable thermostats to automatically adjust temperatures—use less heating/cooling when not home or while sleeping.
- Use interior fans (floor, ceiling, or tabletop) to help circulate air from air conditioners or heating units.
- Install insulating shades or multi-layered curtains to improve window insulation

Montana Energy Corps Program
National Center for Appropriate Technology
3040 Continental Drive, Butte, MT 59701
kaleenam@ncat.org
(406) 533-6651