

## Simple Tips for Summer Energy Savings

With the long hot days of summer fast approaching, many look forward to barbeques and days at the beach. However, summer is also the time for those dreaded energy bills due to the added expense of cooling homes and businesses. Simple energy saving tips can result in large money savings for consumers as well as protect valuable natural resources.

Here are a few tips to conserve energy during the summer months:

- Use light colors to paint rooms.
- Save electricity by replacing regular incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Dishwashers use less water than washing dishes by hand. Run the dishwasher only when it is fully loaded and then allow the dishes to air-dry.
- Refrigerators do not work as hard when they have a lot of food. Keep the fridge well stocked to keep food cold even when the door is open.
- Microwave meals. Microwaves uses  $2/3$  less energy than your stove and do not result in raising the temperatures.
- Turn up your thermostat. Set the thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees (or off) when you are away. Instead use ceiling or room fans. You will save 1-3% off your energy bill for each degree the thermostat is set above 72 degrees. If possible, invest in a programmable thermostat.
- Keep lamps and Tvs away from the thermostat.
- Close windows and blinds.
- Avoid running appliances during peak hours (4-6pm) to prevent electricity outages.
- Use the cold setting when washing clothes. Line dry clothes or run full loads with a moisture-sensing setting. Always clean the dryer lint trap after each use.
- Always clean air conditioner filters.
- Weather-strip, seal, or caulk leaky doors and windows.
- Unplug all electronic devices and chargers when not in use. Many electronic devices use energy even when they are in the off position. Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.

Try some of the above tips and see the difference in your energy bills. And, of course, don't forget to enjoy the great weather!