



A better
life begins
at home.

35 easy ways

to save energy
and money
(and make your
home oh so cozy)

EmPower+



NYSERDA

There are hundreds of ways for you to save energy and money. This handy guide lists 35 of the easiest and most helpful. Many of them won't cost you a cent.

Why wait any longer? Start checking off the savings.



- 01 **Turn down the thermostat.** Especially at night, or when no one is home. No need to suffer; grab some blankets to keep cozy in bed.
- 02 **Shut storm windows tight.** Keep the cold out.
- 03 **Make sure heat registers and cold air returns aren't blocked** by furniture or other objects.
- 04 **In winter, dress in layers.** Think socks and sweaters. You'll save money and be more comfortable.
- 05 **Unplug small kitchen appliances.** These use energy if plugged into the wall, even when switched off.
- 06 **Remove air conditioners in fall,** or install a quality cover.
- 07 **Move furniture away from drafty windows.**
- 08 **In winter, install plastic securely over inside of windows.** Leave some unblocked as escape routes.
- 09 **In winter, open south-facing drapes during the day;** close all drapes at night.
- 10 **Check the furnace filter every month** and replace as necessary. That way, your furnace won't have to work so hard.
- 11 **Limit the use of portable space heaters** and never leave them unattended.
- 12 **Use fans instead of air conditioners** whenever possible, they use less energy.
- 13 **Have your old oil or gas-fired furnace serviced regularly.** This will ensure safe and efficient operation—and you'll have a better idea when you should consider replacing it. If your oil or gas furnace is ready to be replaced, consider clean heat-pump technology.

TOP TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

- 14 **Do not use your oven as a heat source.** It's highly inefficient and costly. It's also not safe.
- 15 **Add or replace insulation and air sealing.** Stay warmer in winter, cooler in summer.
- 16 **Spend less time in the shower.** Saves energy and water.
- 17 **Repair leaky faucets,** especially the hot side.
- 18 **Use a high-efficiency showerhead.**
- 19 **When possible, cook with a microwave** instead of a stove or oven.
- 20 **Lower the thermostat on your water heater** to 120° F.
- 21 **Turn off computers and electronics when not in use.** Use power management settings.
- 22 **Unplug your second refrigerator or a freezer** if it's not being used.
- 23 **If your freezer is in use but mostly empty,** fill with bags of ice to keep it from having to work so hard.
- 24 **When not in use, turn off televisions** and other electronics.
- 25 **Don't run the dishwasher unless it's full.**
- 26 **Clean refrigerator coils regularly** (located under or on back of the fridge).
- 27 **Wash clothes in cold water.** Today's detergents are made to clean with cold water.
- 28 **Do full loads when washing and drying clothes.**
- 29 **Clean the lint trap and vent** in your dryer regularly.
- 30 **Purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified appliances** when buying replacements. They use up to 50% less energy.
- 31 **Replace traditional incandescent bulbs** with ENERGY STAR®-certified LED bulbs.
- 32 **Turn off lights when you leave the room.**
- 33 **Use task lighting** (desk or table lamps) instead of overhead room lights.
- 34 **Use an LED nightlight** instead of leaving lights on at night.
- 35 **Use a "Smart Power Strip"** to reduce energy use when electronics are not in use.

About NYSERDA's EmPower+ Program

NYSERDA's EmPower+ Program offers discounts toward energy efficiency services to low-income (such as HEAP-eligible) and moderate income homeowners and renters. These services include electric reduction and home performance measures. On-site energy education offers customers additional strategies for managing their energy costs. The services are provided by certified contractors.

To learn more about EmPower+ call **1-877-NYSMART**
or visit **nyserdanyc.org/empower**

