

Tips for Saving Energy (and Money) at Home

(savings expressed annually)

Heating and Cooling

Inexpensive, easy actions you can take today:

- Buy an electronic programmable thermostat
Savings: up to 15 percent of your heating bill
- Set your thermostat comfortably low
Savings: up to 5 percent of your heating bill for every degree lowered in the 60°–70° range
- Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120° F
Savings: 7–11 percent of your water heating bill
- Insulate your water heater
Savings: up to 10 percent of your water heating bill
- Keep your fireplace damper closed when not in use
Savings: up to eight percent of your heating bill
- Seal leaky heating ducts
Savings: up to 20 percent

When buying new equipment:

- Look for energy-efficient models sized to meet your home's needs
- Consider a tankless or demand water heater instead of a tank heater

Lighting and Appliances

Inexpensive, easy actions you can take today:

- Replace your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
*Savings: \$8 for each 60-watt incandescent replaced by a 14-watt CFL**
** assuming each bulb operates five hours per day at a cost of \$0.0962 per kilowatt-hour*
- Unplug home electronics (TVs, DVD players, stereos, etc.) when they are not in use
Savings: five percent of your electric bill
- Wash your clothes in cold or warm water
- Unplug a spare refrigerator or freezer
Savings: 10–25 percent of your electric bill

When buying new equipment:

- Buy Energy Star-rated home appliances and electronics
Savings: 25–50 percent of your electric bill, depending on efficiency of existing appliances
- Connect exterior (or interior) lights to motion sensors or timers

Doors, Windows, Insulation

Inexpensive, easy actions you can take today:

- Add insulation to your attic—it is relatively easy and very cost effective
- Check for and seal air leaks around windows, doorframes, electrical outlets, etc.
Savings: up to 10 percent of your heating bill

When buying new equipment:

- Replace your old windows with Energy Star-rated windows
Savings: up to 15 percent on heating and cooling costs

Tips compiled by Sustainable Belmont, a subcommittee of Belmont's Vision 21 Committee working to help Belmont become a more environmentally responsible community. For more information about Sustainable Belmont, please e-mail sustainablebelmont@gmail.com.

(over for energy efficiency resources)

RESOURCES for ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Resources compiled by Sustainable Belmont, a subcommittee of Belmont's Vision 21 Committee working to help Belmont become a more environmentally responsible community. For more information about Sustainable Belmont, please e-mail sustainablebelmont@gmail.com

Alliance to Save Energy

<http://www.ase.org>

This nonprofit website provides tips for conducting energy audits with children, conservation tips that save money, and remodeling and home office energy efficiency suggestions. To receive a free copy of *PowerSmart: Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet*, call 1-888-878-3256.

Belmont Municipal Light Department

<http://town.belmont.ma.us>

Information on Energy Star[®] appliance rebates, home energy audits, and discounts on Energy Star light bulbs and fixtures. "News & Info for Residents" section contains information on residential energy programs; or call 617.484.2780

Conservation Services Group, Inc.

<http://www.csgrp.com>

This Massachusetts-based nonprofit corporation specializes in the design, development, and delivery of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

Efficient Windows

<http://www.efficientwindows.org/>

Unbiased source of information to help you choose energy-efficient windows.

Energy Federation Incorporated

<http://www.energyfederation.org>

Research and order energy efficient appliances, lighting, heating, and other products for the home. For a free catalog, call 800.379.4121

Energy Guide

<http://www.energyguide.com/>

Buy Efficient Products, Analyze Use, or Find a Contractor

Energy Star

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

Information about energy-efficient products and retail and utility rebates.

Home Energy Saver Website

<http://hes.lbl.gov/>

This interactive site shows the average energy use for Belmont and allows you to put in details about your house and get tailored recommendations.

Insulation Contractors Association of America

<http://www.insulate.org>

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Partnership for Home Energy Efficiency

<http://www.energysavers.gov>

U.S. Department of Energy—Consumer Tips

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer>

Articles, brochures, and tips for saving energy and using renewable energy in your home. A free 36-page consumer booklet, *Energy Savers*, is available from their website, or call 877.337.3463 to receive a free copy.

Still Can't Find What You're Looking For?

(over for energy-saving tips)