

SAVE MONEY THIS YEARROUND THROUGH ENERGY CONSERVATION PRODUCTS AND WEATHERIZATION PROJECTS

Renters and Homeowners/Landlords:

THE WARMER MONTHS:

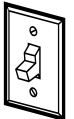
1. Hang your clothes out to dry rather than using the dryer or spending money at the laundry.
2. If you can afford using an air conditioner, be sure it is an Energy Star rated unit.
3. Rather than using an air conditioner and if personal safety allows, keep windows open at night to let the cool air in, circulate air with a fan, and close the windows and draperies in the morning to prevent the sunlight and daytime temperatures from heating your cooled space.
4. To reduce producing heat and humidity in the home, avoid cooking, bathing or washing clothes during the hottest hours of the day. Use bathroom fans when taking a shower.



When cooking, keep the lids on pots. Better yet, use a microwave oven or toaster oven instead.

ALL YEAR LONG:

1. Purchase compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs (most times spiral in shape) for your lighting needs – the savings you see in your first electric bill will likely cover the expense of the bulbs. DO NOT touch these bulbs when installing as the natural oils from your fingers will affect the life of the bulb. Please note: these bulbs have a small amount of mercury contained within the glass. If one should break, follow these directions for clean up: (research indicates that there is no immediate health risk to you or your family should a bulb break and it's cleaned up properly. You can minimize any risks by following these proper clean-up and disposal guidelines):
 - A. Sweep up—don't vacuum—all of the glass fragments and fine particles.
 - B. Place broken pieces in a sealed plastic bag and wipe the area with a damp paper towel to pick up any stray shards of glass or fine particles. Put the used towel in the plastic bag as well. If weather permits, open windows to allow the room to ventilate.
 - C. DO NOT DISPOSE OF BULBS, BROKEN OR OTHERWISE, IN HOUSEHOLD TRASH. Home Depot on Route 12A has a deposit location at their service desk.
3. Turn off any lights, appliances, computers, etc. when not in use. Even when computers are in sleep mode, they are using electricity. Even better, unplug any appliances/electronic equipment/lamps when not in use. Even if they are off, they will still pull electricity usage if plugged in.
4. About 15 percent of an average home energy bill goes to heating water. To save hot water, take five-minute showers instead of baths.
5. Do only full loads when using the clothes washer or dishwasher.
6. Use cold water for the clothes washer —detergents formulated for cold water get clothes just as clean.



PREPARING FOR COLDER MONTHS

1. Make sure windows and storm windows/doors are fully closed and latched.
2. Place plastic bags filled with leaves against the foundation.
3. Shrink-wrap windows leaking air. Caulk windows and doors. Install weather stripping where needed.
4. Put "draft dodgers" at exterior doors, hallway doors or doors leading to a garage or basement.
5. Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure furniture, carpeting, or drapes do not block them.
6. Apply for the Fuel Assistance Program through Tri-County Cap. Applications taken 7/19/10 from households with one or more of the following: individual 62 years and older, disabled person, child under 6 years. All others may apply 9/1/10. Benefits are granted based on Federal Poverty Guideline limits. Funds awarded to participants are available 12/1/10. If approved, funds may be applied to fuel deliveries owed from 10/ 1/10 (including electric). Funds are paid directly to the heating fuel vendor or the landlord if heat is included in the rent. *LIHEAP PROGRAM ENDS 4/30/11*. Those in subsidized or section 8 housing where heat is included in the rent are not eligible.
7. Apply with Tri County Cap for the Electric Discount Program offered to income eligible households. Applications are taken year-round.
8. Weatherization Programs: Cover Home Repair, 802-296-7241: offers perimeter weatherization such as door gaskets, internal storm windows and door sweeps that stops cold drafts, makes homes more comfortable and saves money. Income eligibility required. Tri-County Cap, 443-6100: offers a Weatherization/Energy Efficiency Assessment of the dwelling unit to identify and implement methods for improvement.



Homeowners/Landlords—PREPARING FOR COLDER MONTHS:

1. Have chimney and stove inspected if burning wood.
2. Insulate attic/ crawl space.
3. Have your furnace cleaned and tuned.
4. Install programmable thermostats to keep house cool (60 degrees) when away or asleep.
5. Certain weatherization improvements and purchases of Energy Star appliances may allow for a federal tax credit – see www.energystar.gov and click on tax credits.



Other Resources:

www.staywarmnh.org

www.fapgap.org

www.nh.gov/oe

