



A better
life begins
at home.

35 easy ways

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

EmPower New York



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.
- 14 **Do not use your oven as a heat source.** It's highly inefficient and costly. It's also not safe.

TOP TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

- 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 compact fluorescent (CFL) or 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 New York Program

NYSERDA's EmPower New York program offers no-cost energy efficiency services to low-income (such as HEAP-eligible) 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 New York, call **1-877-NYSMART**
or visit **nyserdera.ny.gov/empower**

