

- ❑ When it's time to buy new appliances, buy the most energy-efficient models.

### Lighten Wisely

- ❑ Turn off the lights when you leave the room. If you want a brighter room, use a higher-wattage bulb rather than more lower-wattage bulbs.
- ❑ Consider Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). CFLs use a fraction of the energy of traditional incandescent light bulbs and last up to ten times as long. CFLs are available in home improvement stores in the lighting section.
- ❑ Keep lamps and fixtures clean. You may save as much as 20 percent on lighting costs.
- ❑ Take advantage of the windows throughout your home and use natural light whenever possible.

### Limit Hot Water Usage

- ❑ Lower the setting of your water heater to 120°, especially during summer months.
- ❑ Fix leaky faucets immediately. Don't leave the water running when you're shaving or washing dishes.
- ❑ Wash and rinse your laundry in cold water.
- ❑ Take short showers instead of baths and install low-flow shower heads.



# HOW to Reduce your Electric Bill

Strategies for using  
energy efficiently.

For more information about saving electricity and saving money on your electric utility bill, visit us online at [www.ncpublicpower.com](http://www.ncpublicpower.com).



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*Severe weather—extreme cold in the winter and extreme heat in the summer—leads to increased electric usage and higher monthly bills. Here are some ideas to help you decrease your usage and your monthly bill.*

## Efficient Heating and Cooling

- ❑ Keep your thermostat no higher than 68° in the winter and no lower than 78° in the summer. Each additional degree adds about three percent to your energy costs.
- ❑ To keep air circulating freely, check filters at least every month and change them when needed. Also, clean dust and lint from air outlets. Use permanent sealant (like mastic) to seal leaky supply and return ducts. Install duct insulation and cover with a vapor barrier.
- ❑ If you use a window air conditioner, seal all cracks and open areas around the unit. During the winter, remove the unit from the window. Before summer, clean or replace the filter and then check regularly.
- ❑ If you have an old furnace or air conditioning system that needs replacing, a new, high efficiency heat pump can cut your heating and cooling costs by 25 to 50 percent.
- ❑ If you're going away for a few days, lower the thermostat, but don't turn the heat off. A cold snap could freeze your pipes.
- ❑ If you have a heat pump, it will operate most efficiently if you set your thermostat and leave it.
- ❑ Use fans instead of, or in addition to, air conditioning.



## Weatherproofing your Home

- ❑ Weatherstrip your doors, caulk cracks in the door frames, and replace worn or ill-fitting thresholds.

- ❑ Install storm doors and windows or plastic kits. Weatherstrip loose-fitting windows and close shades or draperies at night to reduce heat loss.
- ❑ Replace broken or cracked window panes, and caulk cracks or gaps around window framing.
- ❑ Fully insulating your house can save as much as 55 percent on your heating and cooling bills. Be certain to pay attention to the most common areas of air leaks, such as windows and doors, outlets and light switches on exterior walls, mail chutes, fireplaces, ducts and pipes, attics and basements.
- ❑ If your attic insulation is less than R-19, add more insulating batts (without a vapor barrier) or blown insulation. Floors over crawl spaces should be insulated with at least 3 ½ inches of batts (R-11) with vapor barrier side toward the heated area. Ground areas should be covered with a 6 mil plastic vapor barrier



## Efficient Appliances Use

- ❑ Use smaller appliances, like a microwave or toaster oven, instead of your full-size oven, when you can. When you do use your regular range, bake several items at once, and use pots and pans with flat bottoms and tight fitting lids.
- ❑ If your freezer is not frost-free, defrost frequently. Clean the condenser once a year. Make sure the sealing gaskets don't become brittle. And don't open the door more often than necessary.
- ❑ When running your dishwasher, use the energy-saving cycle and run only when full.
- ❑ Underloading, overloading or over-drying clothes reduces your dryer's efficiency. Clean the lint filter after each use. Better still; dry your clothes outside in nice weather.