

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Green Tip: Energy Usage In Your Home

"Reduce before you produce." Did you know an investment in a home energy assessment can save you time and money by giving you a diagnosis of energy loss and savings specific to your home? Implementing energy & water efficiency measures before going solar can also reduce the size of a needed system.

Appliances account for 20% of your household energy consumption
Look for Energy Star (www.energystar.gov) labels especially on:

- Refrigerator (Can save anywhere from \$35-\$70/year)
- Washer (80-85% of energy used is for heating water – try cooler water and save)
- Dryer (Use moisture sensor option, clean lint filter after each use)

Insulation – Can reduce your energy usage by 30% and increase the comfort in your home.

- Check your attic, ceilings, exterior, basement walls, floors and crawl space (attic is the easiest place to add).
 - *R-value* – *Insulation is measured in R-value. Increase the number and you will have better resistance to heat/cold transfer. Typical US homes have anywhere from R-22 to R-49.*

Weatherization – Quick and easy fixes:

- Caulk, seal and weather-strip all seams, cracks, and openings to the outside. (Can reduce energy usage by 10%/year). One-third of air lost goes through ceilings, walls and floors.

HVAC (heating ventilation air conditioning) – Look at sealing ducts, finding an efficient heat pump (provide 3x more heat than energy consumed) as well as a programmable thermostat to control use (10%/year savings if you turn temp. back 10-15% for 8 hours).

Landscape – Did you know you can even reduce your energy bill 25% by strategically placing shade trees, vines and shrubs around your home?

Lighting – Replace 25% of bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs and you can reduce your bills by 50%. CFL's may initially cost a few dollars more but they last 6-10x's longer while saving energy.

Windows – Double paned windows and high perforated glass can reduce heat transfer/loss.

- *On the cheap: Interior or exterior storm sash window covers can reduce loss by 25-50% allowing original frames to stay in place. Best option for homes in historic districts.*



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Solar PV (electric) & Solar Thermal (hot water)- If you continue to have high utility bills consider going solar. Obtain a free estimate from a certified installer to determine if solar is right for your home.

Not sure where to start? Stay tuned for more information on the City's upcoming **CLEAN ENERGY ADVOCATE** program in February 2011.