

EPA Offers Tips to Save Energy and Fight Climate Change this summer!!!

EPA has published a list of energy-saving tips for the home and office to reduce energy bills, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions this summer. State, local, and tribal governments can implement these tips in their buildings and share them with residents and businesses.

Some of the tips for home and work are:

- Set your programmable thermostat to save while you are away or asleep. Using it properly can save up to \$180 per year in energy costs.
- Run ceiling fans in a clockwise direction to create a wind-chill effect that will make you “feel” cooler. Remember that ceiling fans cool people, not rooms – so turn them off when you leave the room.
- Inspect your duct system for obvious signs of leaks and disconnections (most houses leak 20 percent or more). Seal any leaks with foil tape or a special sealant called “duct mastic.” Also consider insulating ducts in unconditioned areas (like the attic, basement or crawlspace).
- Seal air leaks around your home to keep the heat out and the cool air in. The biggest air leaks are usually found in the attic or basement, but also come in around doors, windows, vents, pipes and electrical outlets. Use caulk, spray foam or weather stripping to seal the leaks. And add more insulation to keep your home cooler this summer.

- Maintain your cooling system. Check your system's air filter every month at a minimum and change the filter every 3 months. Remove leaves, dirt and other debris from around the outdoor components to improve air flow and efficiency. Have a qualified professional tune up your system with a pre-season maintenance checkup and, if it's time to replace your old system, look for models that have earned EPA's ENERGY STAR.

- Turn off office lights and equipment when not in use so they don't generate unnecessary heat.

- Replace incandescent light bulbs in your desk lamp with ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs, which use two-thirds less energy and generate less heat than conventional bulbs.

For more cool summer tips, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-summer.htm>

For additional home energy saving tips, visit: <http://www.energystar.gov>

