



Focus on Energy Residential Fact Sheet

Energy savings checklist for your home



Understanding where and how energy is used in your home can help you make smart decisions that will increase comfort, reduce operating costs, boost the value of your home, and help protect the environment. You can tackle these energy costs by making energy efficiency improvements to your whole house. The following checklist will help you increase comfort, reduce energy consumption, and save money.

Heating and Cooling

Seal leaky pathways before insulating your attic.

During construction, openings are made in the attic for plumbing, wiring, and chimneys. Seal these openings to keep heat and moisture out of the attic and avoid wasted energy and structural damage from ice dams and condensation. Consider hiring a professional partnering with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® for assistance by contacting Focus on Energy.

Insulate your walls and attic.

Insulation is a very cost effective way to save energy in your home. It keeps your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer by slowing heat transfer. Insulation and air sealing also help to screen out noise and keep water pipes from freezing. Insulate attic areas to at least R-49. For a major impact on heating and cooling bills and comfort, insulate above-grade walls by filling wall cavities completely. If you are replacing your siding, consider adding insulation underneath the new siding.

Change your furnace filter.

Check your filter every month, especially during heavy use months (winter and summer). If the filter looks dirty after a month, change it. At a minimum, change the filter every 3 months. You can save up to 40 percent in furnace electricity costs just by changing your furnace filter. A clean filter ensures effective airflow while maintaining the air quality and comfort of your home.

Install a high efficiency furnace.

A high efficiency furnace makes sense for Wisconsin's long winters. Choose one with an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) of at least 90 percent. Focus on Energy recommends a multi-stage furnace with a variable speed fan known as an electronically commutated motor (ECM). These furnaces are much quieter and use significantly less electricity

than those with standard fan motors. Depending on how you use your fan, you can expect to save \$80–\$380 per year in furnace electricity costs. You'll save the most if you switch your furnace fan to "auto."

Choose a high efficiency central air conditioner.

ENERGY STAR qualified central air conditioners have a higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) than standard models, making them about 14 percent more efficient than standard models. Focus on Energy recommends 15 SEER or higher units. Ask a professional to calculate the right size unit for your home, ensure adequate airflow across the cooling coil, and test for proper refrigerant charge. Place the outside unit (condenser) where it is protected from direct sunlight and vegetation.

Monitor your thermostat.

Set your thermostat five to eight degrees lower (or higher in summer) at night and when the house is unoccupied for several hours. For convenience, install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature depending on the time of day and day of the week.

Water Heating

Purchase a high efficiency water heater.

The most efficient water heaters are generally gas fired. If natural gas or liquid propane (LP) is available, choose a storage water heater with an energy factor of 0.67 or greater. Also set the water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to save energy and reduce the risk of scalding. Fix leaky faucets and install watersaving showerheads and faucet aerators to use hot water efficiently.



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Partnering with Wisconsin utilities

Appliances

✓ **Recycle your old fridge for bigger savings.**

If you still have an old fridge replace it with an ENERGY STAR model to save energy and money. ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators use 20 percent less energy than models not labeled with the ENERGY STAR logo. Choose a new qualified model and cut your energy bills by \$165 over your fridge's lifetime. Having a secondary fridge can also cost you \$100 or more to run, recycle it and use one energy efficient refrigerator.

✓ **Save energy with your stove/oven.**

Using the right sized pot on stove burners can save about \$36 annually for an electric range, or \$18 for gas.

✓ **Replace a clothes washer manufactured before 1998.**

These older washers are significantly less efficient than newer models. ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers use 30 percent less energy and 50 percent less water per load, saving you water, energy and money.

✓ **Don't over-dry your clothes.**

A dryer operating an extra 15 minutes per load can cost you up to \$34 every year. Many dryers come with energy saving moisture or humidity sensors that shut off the heat when clothes are dry. If you don't have this feature, try to match the cycle length to the size and weight of the load. Remember to clean the lint trap before every load, as this step can also save you up to \$34 each year.

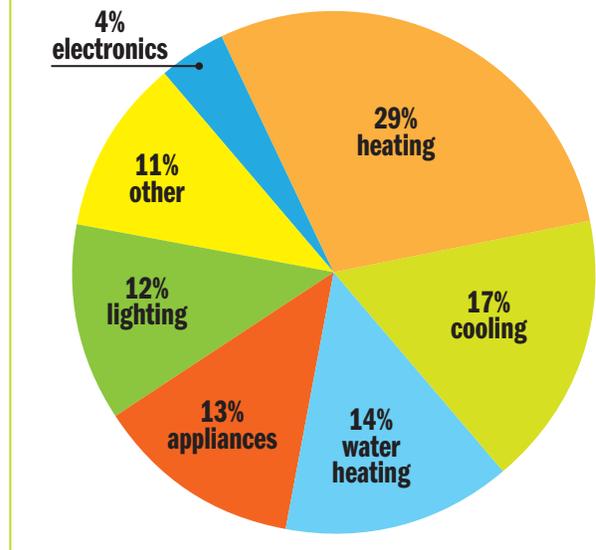
✓ **Switch out a dishwasher built before 1994.**

Dishwashers built before 1994 waste more than 10 gallons of water per cycle and costs you an extra \$40 a year on your utility bills compared to owning a new ENERGY STAR qualified model. Choose a model with energy-saving features such as a built-in booster heater, energy-saving wash cycle, and air-dry option. To save more energy and money, run your dishwasher only when full.

✓ **Unplug appliances with "phantom loads" when not in use.**

Some appliances and electronics use power even when turned off—such as televisions, stereos, and products with external power adapters, also known as power supplies or battery chargers. Phantom load can account for up to 15 percent of home energy use.

Annual Energy Bill for typical Single Family Home



Typical House memo, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2009 and Typical house_2009_Reference.xls spreadsheet. Average price of electricity is 11.3 cents per kilo-watt hour. Average price of natural gas is \$13.29 per million Btu.

Lighting

✓ **Install ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).**

CFLs use 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. By installing CFLs in lamps, fixtures, and ceiling fans, you'll save more than \$30 over the life of each bulb!

Take action today. See results tomorrow.

Lower energy costs are the results when Wisconsin residents tap into energy efficiency and renewable energy. To find out how you can reduce energy costs and improve the comfort and durability of your home, call Focus on Energy at **800.762.7077** or visit **focusonenergy.com**.

Learn more at focusonenergy.com

Find more detailed information about each of the items listed on Focus on Energy's website in the information center. Focus on Energy offers programs and resources to help Wisconsin residents lower energy costs and utility bills.

energystar.gov

The ENERGY STAR program provides information on energy-efficient products that meet ENERGY STAR standards.

For more information,
call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.



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