

Simple Step

Dishwasher tips. Run your dishwasher only with a full load. Use the energy-saving setting to dry the dishes. Don't use heat when drying.

Washing machine settings. Wash clothes in warm or cold water, not hot.

Water heater cap. Turn down your water heater thermostat; 120 degrees is usually hot enough.

Thermostat adjustments. Don't overheat or overcool rooms. Adjust your thermostat (lower in winter, higher in summer).

Air conditioner check. Clean or replace air filters as recommended. Cleaning a dirty air conditioner filter can save 5% of the energy used.

Best lightbulb choices. Buy energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs for your most-used lights.

Water heater tweak. Wrap your water heater in an insulating jacket (but only if the water heater is over 5 years old and has no internal insulation).

Shower head switch. Install low-flow shower heads to use less hot water.

Weatherstripping. Caulk and weatherstrip around doors and windows to plug air leaks.

Energy efficiency. Ask your utility company for a home energy audit to find out where your home is poorly insulated or energy-inefficient.

Driving less. Whenever possible, walk, bike, carpool or use mass transit.

MPG criteria. When you buy a car, choose one that gets good gas mileage.

Waste reduction. Buy minimally packaged goods; choose reusable products over disposable ones; recycle.

Clothes washing tip for spring and summer. Air dry your clothes instead of using the dryer whenever possible.

Home insulation. Insulate your walls and ceilings; this can save about 25% of home heating bills.

Good windows. If you need to replace your windows, install the best energy-saving models.

Neighborhood greening. Plant trees next to your home.

New appliances. As you replace home appliances, select the most energy-efficient models.

Reducing waste. Recycle your potentially recyclable material (paper, plastics and glass) and promote energy-efficient measures and recycling programs at your school or workplace.

Staying on top of the issues. Keep track of candidates' voting records and write or call to express concerns.

Earth Savings in (CO₂)Carbon Dioxide Reductions

\$\$\$ Savings

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100 pounds CO₂/year

\$5/year

up to 350 pounds CO₂/year (for two loads a week)

\$20/year

200 pounds a year (for each 20- degree adjustment)

\$10/year

about 350 pounds CO₂/year (for each 2-degree adjustment)

\$20/year

350 pounds CO₂/year

\$20/year

500 pounds CO₂/year

\$30/year

250 pounds CO₂/year

\$15/year

350 pounds CO₂/year

\$20/year

650 pounds CO₂/year

\$35/year

1,000 pounds CO₂/year

varies

28 pounds CO₂ per gallon of gas saved

at least \$2.00 per gallon of gas saved

3,000 pounds CO₂/year (if your new car gets 3 mpg more than your old one)

\$150/year

1,200 pounds CO₂/year (if you cut down your garbage by 10%)

700 lbs CO₂/year (if you air dry your clothes for 6 months)

\$45/year

2,000 pounds CO₂/year

varies

1,000 pounds CO₂/year

\$50/year

13 pounds CO₂/year (for each tree)

varies

600 pounds CO₂/year (by replacing an old air conditioner with a new Energy Star air conditioner)

\$30/year

2,400 pounds CO₂/year (by recycling half of household generated waste)

Billions of pounds of CO₂/year