



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



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FIND OUT HOW THE LITTLE CHANGES ADD UP.

FLIP THE SWITCH. LOWER THE BLINDS. INSULATE YOUR ATTIC.
LOWER THE TEMPERATURE ON YOUR THERMOSTAT. THESE SOUND
LIKE SIMPLE TASKS. TAKE ALL OF THESE STEPS AROUND YOUR
HOME AND YOU CAN RACK UP BIG SAVINGS.

TOGETHER WE SAVE.

THIS HOME ENERGY SAVINGS GUIDE CONTAINS VALUABLE TIPS ON HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S EFFICIENCY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVE AND VISIT TOGETHERWESAVE.COM.

HOME ENERGY SAVINGS

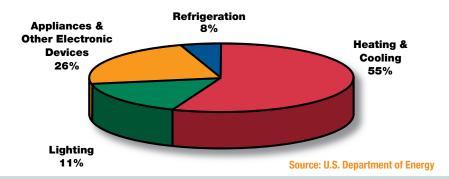
Your Touchstone Energy cooperative works hard to hold down energy prices. You, too, can play an important role in controlling your energy costs by evaluating your home and taking simple steps to trim unnecessary energy use. The following are some tips to help you reduce your energy costs.

HOME ENERGY COSTS

Get a clear picture of which parts of your home use the most energy.

- The first step in reducing home energy costs is to review last year's utility bills. Using the below national "percentage" averages, a homeowner who spent \$1,900 a year for home energy would have paid roughly:
 - \$1045 for heating and cooling
 - \$494 for appliances and other electronic devices
 - \$209 for lighting
 - \$152 for refrigeration
- When implementing energy-saving measures, remember, you cannot save more than you are spending.
- Contact your local Touchstone Energy cooperative to review your bills and receive a more accurate estimate. Go to TogetherWeSave.com for more information.

AVERAGE HOME ENERGY USAGE



HOME ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Assess how your family uses energy in your home.

- · Leaving unnecessary lights on increases energy costs.
- Turn off computers and other office equipment when they're not being used, especially overnight and on weekends.
- Heating your home to higher than 68° in the winter or cooling it below 75° in the summer costs more.
- Taking long showers runs up the water heating (and water/sewer) bills.

INSULATION

- If you have insulation in your attic graded at R-19 or less, consider bringing it up to R-38 in moderate climates and R-49 in cold climates.
- In cold climates, if you have floor insulation graded at R-11 or less, consider bringing it up to R-25.



WINDOWS

Windows leak heat. If you have single-pane windows, consider doing the following:

- Tighten and weather-strip your old windows and then add storm windows.
- Replace your old single-glazed windows with new double-glazed windows.
- In colder climates, "low-e" coatings on glass can help reduce heat loss through windows.
- In hot climates, consider adding solar screening to west-facing windows that catch a lot of heating late in the day. Solar screening is sold at many home improvement stores.

AIR INFILTRATION

Air that transfers in and out of homes through cracks, crevices and holes increases energy consumption. Here are some helpful tips to avoid air infiltration:

- Seal around pipe penetrations coming through walls.
- During hot and cold weather, ensure windows are closed tightly and locked.
- Ensure weather-stripping around doors and windows is tight.
- When your fireplace is not operating, its flue should be closed tightly, with a sign hanging from the flue handle warning it is closed.
- Check the ceiling behind the cornice of built-in bookshelves for holes cut during construction.
- Drop-down stairways should fit tightly into the ceiling and be carefully weather-stripped.
- Whole-house attic fans should be sealed tightly during the winter.
- Make sure your outside dryer vent door closes when the dryer is not in use.
 This requires cleaning away lint accumulation periodically.





REFRIGERATION

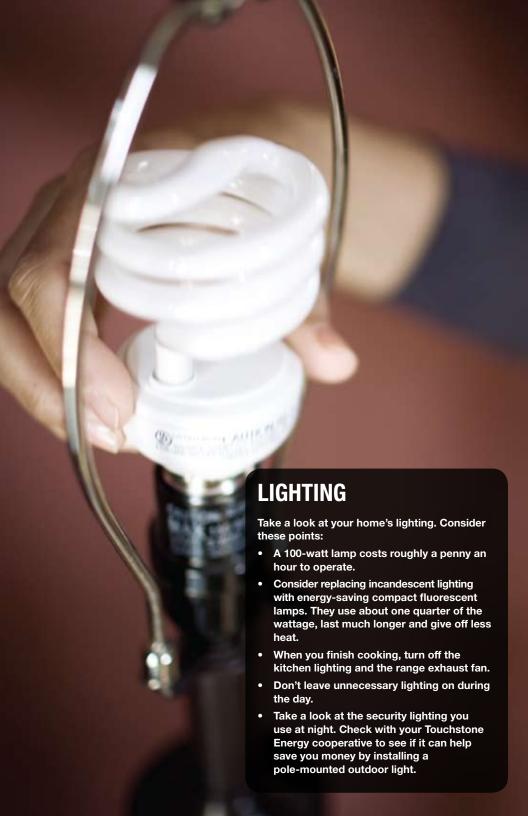
Trim your refrigerator's energy use.

- Make sure refrigerator and freezer seals fit tightly when doors close.
- Keep outside coils clean. Dirty coils make your refrigerator compressor work longer to remove heat.
- Setting your freezer below 0° uses extra energy.
- Setting your refrigerator below 37° uses extra energy.

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) uses the largest chunk of your home energy dollar. Keep it running "lean and mean."

- HVAC systems should be checked to verify they are moving the correct amount of air. An HVAC technician can tell you if it is.
- Heat pump and air conditioning systems should be checked annually to verify they are properly charged, strictly in accordance with manufacturer quidelines.
- Inside and outside coils should be kept clean and free of debris.
- Gas furnaces should be tuned for maximum combustion efficiency.
- Return filters should be changed monthly.
- Have an HVAC technician check carefully for duct leaks. Leaks that are found should be sealed with fiberglass mesh and mastic sealant.





SELECTING A CONTRACTOR

Some of the work you will want to complete will require the services of a contractor. When selecting a contractor, keep in mind that the best price is not always the best value. Here are some questions to ask when deciding who to use:

- How long have you been in business?
- Can you provide proof that you are state-licensed and carry workers' compensation insurance?
- Can you provide the names of neighbors who have used your services?
- Are you a member of the Better Business Bureau?

NOTES:



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ENERGY SAVINGS CHECK WITH THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

- VISIT TOUCHSTONEENERGY.COOP FOR INFORMATION AND TO LOCATE YOUR LOCAL TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVE.
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENERGY.GOV/YOURHOME.HTM
- ENERGY STAR ENERGYSTAR.GOV
- ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY ASE.ORG
- YOUR STATE'S ENERGY OFFICE.







