

# HOME ENERGY SAVING TIPS



## Cooling Systems

- Don't move the thermostat up or down throughout the day as this will waste energy and money.
- Make sure furniture and draperies are not blocking cooling outlets. Blocked outlets restrict air circulation, overwork the cooling equipment and increase operating costs.
- Use ceiling fans to assist in cooling. In the summer, blades should rotate counter-clockwise when viewed from below.
- Make sure your air conditioner filter is clean and replace filters as needed. Also consider letting a professional tune-up your air conditioner to maximize its efficiency.

## Living Areas

- Close off rooms that are not used directly for cooling, so rooms most used by the household will remain cool.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows that leak air.
- Adding insulation and sealing air leaks will help keep the cool air inside.
- Close drapes, shades and blinds during the day to keep the sunlight from heating up your home.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Turn off lights when they are not needed.
- Turn off computers, monitors, printers and televisions during periods of non-use. These devices use energy even when in stand-by mode.

## Kitchen / Laundry Areas

- Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator and check for frost buildup in refrigerators and freezers which causes an appliance to work harder.
- Shift the use of heat-producing and major appliances such as ovens, dishwashers, clothes dryers and irons from mid-day to early in the morning or later at night when possible.
- Try to wash full loads in the dishwasher, and use the short cycle.
- Use your microwave, toaster oven, slow cooker, broiler oven or other energy saving appliances for cooking food.
- Turn down the temperature on your water heater to 115 degrees.
- Cover pans when cooking on a stove top and use exhaust fans periodically, as required, to reduce indoor humidity.
- Avoid using extension cords with appliances because they cut the efficiency of the appliance.
- Wash clothes in cold water with a cold water detergent. Wash full loads of laundry for maximum efficiency.