



Toronto
Green
Community

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Energy conservation may seem like an inconvenience to many of us at first, but with today's soaring energy costs, reducing energy consumption also saves you money. Using electricity wisely is not only about conservation but about choosing the time of day when demand is typically lower. On weekdays, peak demand occurs in the early evening as people return home from work. Also, keeping energy use to a minimum during extreme hot and cold spells is helpful because it reduces the demand on power generation stations which leads to fewer stations making less pollution.

QUICK TIPS TO REDUCE ENERGY AND SAVE YOU MONEY

WORKPLACE

- Headaches, stress, blood pressure, fatigue and worker error all generally increase with the common practice of over-illumination found in many workplace and retail settings. Natural daylight use vastly increases productivity levels of workers, while reducing energy consumption.
- Ensure radiators are not blocked with furniture, which affects the heat available to the room. Also, set thermostats to a lower temperature for unused spaces such as corridors and storerooms.
- Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use. Leaving equipment on standby mode uses up to 70% of normal power consumption. Power bars with timers are a great solution, especially overnight.

HOME

- Insulate your home to adequate standards – it's the single most effective way to reduce energy use.
- Check air conditioner filters at least once a month in the summer and clean or replace them as needed.
- To ensure food safety, keep your refrigerator between 2C and 5C and the freezer at -18C. Lowering temperatures further wastes energy unnecessarily.
- Wash laundry in cold water. This keeps clothes clean, colors bright, and saves a lot of energy.
- Hang clothes on a clothesline or drying rack to avoid the high energy consumption of a dryer.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, which are 4x more energy-efficient and last about 8x as long. Conserve more with a dimmer switch – a bulb dimmed by 25% uses 10% less energy.

- Garbage processing is very energy intensive, and landfills are a big cause of GHG emissions. Consume less and try to buy things with minimal packaging.

YEAR-ROUND

- Using energy-efficient shower heads or a flow controller conserves energy without affecting water pressure and saves as much as 60%. Dripping taps can waste 9000 litres of hot water each year!
- Take short showers. A 5 minute shower uses 50% less water than a regular size bath.
- Run your washer and dryer early in the morning or late at night and only for full loads.
- You can buy years of energy savings by choosing appliances with the **ENERGY STAR®** symbol.
- Consider a home energy audit to find out how energy efficient your home is and the best way to spend your home-improvement dollars.

ENERGY CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES	ESTIMATED ENERGY SAVINGS
Turn back temperature to 68°F in winter	5% of heating cost for each degree set back
Turn up temperature to 78°F in summer	3% of cooling cost for each degree raised
Maintain furnace by annual check-ups and adjustments	10% of heating cost
Maintain air-conditioning units by annual check-ups adjustments	15% of heating cost
Set back domestic water heater from 140°F to 110°F	6-12% of hot water cost
Maximize use of daylight	50-60% of lighting cost
Improve lighting maintenance	10% of lighting cost
Turn off unnecessary lights	17% lighting cost
Reduce lighting	15-28% of lighting in existing buildings 25% of lighting in new buildings
Use insulating glass	10-13% of heating and cooling cost
Insulate hot water pipes/ storage tanks	15% of water heating costs
Adequate insulation for walls and roof	20% of heating and cooling cost

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