

Enviro-notes

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A SIMPLE LIST OF THINGS YOU CAN DO TO - CONSERVE ENERGY AND SAVE MONEY TOO! !

by Lynn Bishop, EaCoE member

The cold weather is here and with so much to do in the fall we can often forget some of the simple things that will help us stay warm in our homes, conserve energy and save money too! Here is a reminder list I've compiled, its not to late to implement any of these conservation tricks.

- **Use caulking and weather-stripping to seal air leaks:** Use a candle or an incense stick to find drafts around windows, doorframes, electrical outlets, vents and sills.
- **Install plastic on single and even double-pane windows.**
- **Remove window air conditioners for the winter:** If they are fixed in place, be sure to seal them with caulking and cover them with an airtight, insulated jacket to avoid heat loss. (use an old ski jacket and some duct tape, it works!)
- **Close your drapes and blinds at night:** this will help improve the insulation value of your windows (usually rated at about R3, compared to R 20 for your insulated roof)
- **Open the curtains on south facing windows during the day** and you can reap the rewards of the passive solar heat.
- **Install and use a programmable thermostat:** For every 1° C you lower your thermostat you can save 2% on your heating bill. Lower the thermostat by 4-5 degrees Celsius while your sleeping at night or when no one is home and you could save up to \$90/year.
- **Wrap hot water tanks with insulation:** either fiberglass, poly or foil bubble pack.
- **Wrap all hot water pipes with foam insulation.**
- **Change the furnace air filter:** Dirt reduces the air flow and efficiency if it collects on filters, fans and heat exchangers. This should be done monthly.
- **Install a low flow unit on the shower head and faucets:** you'll use less hot water when you bathe and you'll still come out shiny and clean
- **Turn off your water heater when you go away for a holiday:** It takes energy to keep water hot, so while your off soaking up the rays at the beach or skiing on the slopes your water heater is working away for nothing. Turn it off when you leave for a week or more. It will only takes 15 minutes to heat up some water and a couple of hours for a full tank when you return

- **Buy compact florescent light bulbs:** every time you replace a bulb. They cost more initially but can use up to 75% less electricity and will last for years.
- **Use the new LED Christmas lights this year:** they use up to 80% less electricity and come in a nice array of colors.
- **Giving an appliance as a gift? Be sure its Energy Star rated:** An appliance receives the ENERGY STAR rating if it is significantly more energy efficient than the minimum government standards

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