18 ways to be energy efficient

1. **Turn your thermostat down to 68 degrees.** A one degree difference can cut your electricity usage by 3%.

2. **Use rugs and curtains to provide additional insulation around the home.**

3. **Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.**

4. **Conduct an online, or an in-home, energy audit to learn ways to make your home more energy efficient.**

5. **Seal all windows when temperatures begin to drop.** This will prevent unwanted airflow in the winter.

6. **Use door sweeps or towels to limit air leaks under doors.**

7. **Plant trees and shrubs around the home to produce extra shade.**

8. **Turn your computer’s sleep mode on so it won’t waste power when you’re away from it.**

9. **Install a programmable thermostat.** It will remember to adjust the temperature when you don’t.

10. **Use the microwave instead of the stove or oven, as it only uses a third of the electricity.**

11. **Wash clothes in cold water.** It saves energy and has been proven to get clothes just as clean.

12. **Turning up the thermostat and using fans during the summer can significantly decrease energy usage.**

13. **Have your home’s insulation inspected with an infrared camera to find air leaks that you can’t see.**

14. **Ensure window A/C units are properly fitted to your window. Large gaps on the sides will lead to extra air loss.**

15. **Have the A/C unit and furnace inspected, serviced and cleaned according to the owner’s manual suggestion.**

16. **Unplug battery chargers and power adapters when not in use.**

17. **Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees to conserve energy and maintain comfort.**

18. **During the summer, use things like the oven and dishwasher in the evening.** These appliances produce extra heat and humidity.

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