



Use a Power Bar

A growing number of household electrical devices draw power 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Even when turned off, these appliances and home electronics continue to use electricity (referred to as standby or phantom power) to operate features such as:

- Clocks
- Timers and touch pads
- Remote controls
- Charging batteries

A power bar will allow you to cut an electrical circuit entirely, so your devices won't be able to draw any standby power. Simply plug your devices into the power bar and plug the power bar into your electrical socket. When you aren't using your devices, all you have to do is switch the power bar off. You can purchase a power bar in your local hardware store for about \$10.00.

Use Lids on Your Pots

When using the stove, be sure to put lids on pots in order to keep the heat in the pot. This will enable you to use lower heat settings and less energy.

Wash With Colder Water

Wash your clothes in cold or warm water. A whopping 85-90% of the energy used by washing machines is for heating the water! You can save a lot of energy by lowering the water temperature.

Use Ceiling Fans

If you use ceiling fans during hot summer days, you can create a cooling effect similar to "wind chill." A few ceiling or regular fans strategically placed in your home can reduce the amount of time you spend with the air conditioning on. There are even Energy Star certified ceiling fans out there that use even less energy than typical ceiling fans.

Air-Dry Your Clothes

If the weather permits, hang your clothes out to dry on a clothesline in the sun. This way, you can avoid using your dryer, which will cut back on your energy usage and save you money.



Sustainable Pickering

Energy Saving Tips

Manpower over Machine Power

Don't use electrical equipment like leaf blowers, as they consume so much energy for so little gain. Use a rake instead - it's better for your health too!

Another Bright Idea

Switch your standard incandescent bulbs for Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs). CFLs come in a range of designs and shapes to fit most fixtures both indoors and out. Not only are CFLs ideal in hard to reach places but because they last longer, they use 75 percent less energy.

Upgrade Your Insulation

Upgrade the insulation in your walls, basement and attic; doing so can reduce your energy consumption and lower your bill by as much as 30 percent.

Open or Close Your Drapes and Shades

Keep the drapes and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to heat your home naturally (no energy required!). Close them at night to get rid of the chill from cold windows.

Tree Your Home

Shady trees can dramatically reduce the need to cool your home in the summer. Some kinds of trees can even keep you warm in the winter. Deciduous trees lose their leaves when it's cool, allowing the sun's rays to function as a heater.

Install Storm Windows

Replacing single glazed with double glazed windows will prevent up to 25% of total home heat loss. This means that you can run your home heating system for a shorter amount of time, saving you money and lowering energy consumption.

Layer Up

When the weather gets chilly, don't crank up the heat. Instead, slip on an extra sweater or some long underwear. Using your indoor heater less often will lower your energy costs and your overall consumption.