

## A TIP FROM THE HOUSING CENTER

### A Home Energy Savings Tip

#### **To Do Today**

- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.
- Check if your water heater has an insulating blanket and install. It will pay for itself in 1 year!
- Use energy-saving settings on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers.
- Survey your incandescent lights for opportunities to replace them with compact fluorescents. These new lamps can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescent bulbs. The best targets are 60-100 Watt bulbs used several hours a day.
- Check the age and condition of your major appliances, especially the refrigerator. You may want to replace it with a more energy-efficient model before it dies.
- Clean or replace furnace, air-conditioner, and heat-pump filters.

#### **This Week**

- Visit the hardware store. Buy a water-heater blanket, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and compact fluorescent light bulbs, as needed.
- Rope-caulk very leaky windows.
- Assess your heating and cooling systems. Determine if replacements are justified, or whether you should retrofit them to make them work more efficiently to provide the same comfort (or better) for less energy.

#### **This Month**

- Collect your utility bills. Separate electricity and fuel bills. Target the biggest bill for energy conservation remedies.
- Crawl into your attic or crawlspace and inspect for insulation. Is there any? How much?
- Insulate hot water pipes and ducts wherever they run through unheated areas.
- Install a clock thermostat to set your thermostat back automatically at night.
- Schedule an energy audit (ask your utility company or state energy office) for more expert advice on your home as a whole.

#### **This Year**

- Insulate. If your walls aren't insulated have an insulation contractor blow cellulose into the walls. Bring your attic insulation level up to snuff.
- Replace aging, inefficient appliances. Even if the appliance has a few useful years left, replacing it with a top-efficiency model is generally a good investment.
- Upgrade leaky windows. It may be time to replace them with energy-efficient models or to boost their efficiency with weather-stripping and storm windows.
- Reduce your air conditioning costs by planting shade trees and shrubs around your house—especially on the west side.
- Know that you are making a difference!

**Information provided by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy**