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Making Your Home Energy Conservation Successful

Every year, interest rates are increasing and the cost of heating is definitely going up. And whether we admit it or not, we sometimes find our selves running out of money. However, if you compare an average house to an energy efficient residence, you'll find out that it is very possible to lessen your annual energy consumption to almost 40 percent. There are lots of ways to conserve home energy which consequently lower your energy bills. And most of the changes that you can do for your home are also helpful to the environment.

Here are some ways to conserve energy in your home:

· Heating and Air Conditioning

1. If you're going out of an air conditioned room for a long time, be sure to turn off the A/C unit.
2. Rooms that are not used often should have sealed vent.
3. You can also install ceiling fans that are remote controlled than have a built-in heater.
4. When the room is occupied, put the thermostat in a comfortable setting.
5. When the fireplace isn't used, close the damper in the fireplace

Efficient Heating and Cooling - Why It's Important And What You Can Do

Most of us want to be sure our homes stay at a comfortable temperature, but keeping them that way can use up a lot of energy. Of course, any behavior that raises energy use also increases the rate at which we use the fossil fuels we burn for power. These fuels are not only in limited supply, but their burning increases the number of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as lower level pollution. If you're concerned about the environment, efficiently heating and cooling your home are important things to pay attention to.

Fortunately, that are a number of things you can do to improve your home's efficiency. How we heat and cool our houses makes for a significant part of most Americans' carbon footprint - as much or more than even our driving habits. By improving your home's efficiency, you're making a big difference in how much energy you use. Many of the changes you can make are simple and easy.

Installing a programmable thermostat with Energy Star certification makes it easy to keep your home at the desired temperature. Turn it down a little more in the winter and up a few degrees in the summer - most of us don't notice, but it makes a big difference. Remember that your windows and doors should be well sealed to prevent air leaks, and that you can use insulated blinds and drapes to help reduce heat loss or gain in your home. Installation of ceiling fans will improve energy efficiency, too. You can use them in the summer, or in the winter by reversing the direction of the blades. Fans also make the air in your home a lot healthier.

Insulation makes a big difference, too. Most homes don't have enough insulation, especially in the attic. Adding more may take a bit of effort, but it'll save you money in the long run. Remember to have your furnace serviced regularly, too. If it's too old, replace it with a more efficient model - this might be expensive to start, but it'll soon pay for itself. The efficiency of some old furnaces is no more than fifty percent!

Making your home's heating and cooling more efficient is one important step towards greater sustainability, and a smaller carbon footprint. Plus, you'll save money on energy bills, too. Take a look at your house and see what changes you can make for a better, more efficient home.

· **Laundry Appliances**

1. Avoid using your washing machine in partial loads. It is better if you meet the capacity of the machine.
2. Dirty clothes must be pre-soaked for hours. This will prevent you from running your machine twice.
3. For the garments that aren't very dirty, put small quantity of detergent and put your machine to a lighter wash setting.
4. Electric drier consumes more energy in drying clothes so better apply the conventional way of drying your garments.
5. Ironing clothes should be done at one time and during off-peak hours

· **Refrigerators and Freezers**

1. Refrigerators and freezers must be defrosted regularly. Frost build-up can increase the load of the compressor motor.
2. Inspect your refrigerator and look for a leaking gasket.
3. Avoid constant opening and closing of the refrigerator's door because it can contribute to ice or frost build-up.

· **Kitchen Appliances**

1. Don't boil water in an open pan. A pan that's covered will boil the water faster.
2. Keep the burners, range top and reflectors clean. It can help generate more heat and consume less energy.
3. When the food you're cooking starts to boil, turn the electric stove to low mode.
4. Don't put smaller pans or pots in small burners or heating elements.

· **Lighting**

1. Switch off unused lights as well as other appliance that use electricity.
2. Utilize low wattage yet efficient lamps.
3. Replace your incandescent bulb with fluorescent lamp.

Energy Saving Window Choices

Our homes use a lot of energy and nonrenewable resources when it comes to heating and cooling. In fact, home heat and air conditioning are some of every American's biggest contributors to their carbon footprint. One way to cut down your costs and improve your efficiency is by installing energy saving windows. Energy efficient windows can save you money, reduce the amount of energy you're using, and help you feel better about your personal effect on the environment.

If your home is full of attractive, traditional large windows, you might be losing all the money and savings from your energy efficient appliances, good travel habits, and good eating habits. The wrong windows can be a big source of heat transfer, causing warmth to leave your home in the winter, and enter in the summer. Fortunately, there are some things you can do to help green up your windows.

They're the most common place for homes to lose cool air in summertime and heat in the winter, causing furnaces and air conditioners to run over time. That's because glass is an excellent conductor. It moves energy quickly from one side of the window to the other, rather than keeping heat on the side of the wall we prefer it to be on. Sealing gaps around windows and doors can be a big help in reducing drafts, but to really prevent this kind of heat loss, you'll either need to replace your windows or take measures to improve your old ones.

Use of blinds and drapes with insulating linings and designs properties will help you keep heat where you want it. Use retractable styles that allow you to shade your windows when desirable, and open them to the sunlight when you want warmth and light. Be sure to open and close your blinds as appropriate, so you'll get the most benefit from them. Installing energy efficient blinds and curtains is one of the least expensive ways to change the way your home loses heat.



For those willing to take an extra step, changing out old, inefficient windows for better ones is a good option. Look for "Low-E" windows, which are double paned, and which have krypton or argon gas between those panes. These gases are invisible, but they act as an insulative layer, keeping heat where it's supposed to be. High efficiency windows bring your home's glass surfaces up in insulative rating, removing those holes in your home's envelope.

If you'd like to increase your home's efficiency and spend less on heating and cooling, more efficient windows are the answer. Seal all cracks, install appropriate blinds and curtains, and replace old, inefficient windows with higher efficiency models. You'll soon notice a difference.

Those are just handful of tips to lower your energy bills. There are many other factors which can also guide you in conserving your home energy.

Remember that the two great factors which you can change in order to enhance your quality of life are your lifestyle and your home. If you want to modernize your home, you have to make significant decisions regarding your household appliances. In today's world, we are faced with a wide range of appliance styles, sizes, configurations and technologies. Evaluating your household appliances can help a lot in your aim to save home energy. The following are the factors that can help you compare and assess your home appliances:

Energy Efficiency. It is always good to carefully weigh up the energy efficiency of the appliances in your home. In some household devices, you are left with a choice between electricity and natural gas as the source of power. The energy efficiency can also be based on the materials the machine or appliance is made of. Various materials can be cooled and heated at different rates.

Size. Having an appliance with the right size is significant. Speed also comes into play. Generally, the faster an appliance finishes its task, the less time it uses energy.

Features. Assess first the features of an appliance before purchasing it and think carefully how these features can improve your lifestyle.

Another advisable tip is to come up with a home energy conservation plan. There are various approaches which you can use in developing such plan and these include:

- Identification of the places where home energy is used inefficiently or lost
- Prioritizing the said areas and finding out how much energy is being wasted
- Correcting the said problems systematically depending on your home energy improvement budget

As you come up with your home energy conservation preparation, you should first identify the problem vicinities. It is good to start in the area where higher amount of energy is used because that area can also be the best place to gain potential savings.

Home Energy Audit : Checking Out the Parts of the Home

Going about a home energy audit is one smart way of cutting the utility bills that you pay for at the end of every month. Many people tend to forget about the parts of their homes that might be causing the rise in the home energy consumption. One fact that you must learn to take note of is that the home appliances that you possess, although they are switched off and not in use, still consume energy because of the phantom loads that they create. Examples of these are the VCRs, stereo components, microwave oven, toasters, and the stoves.

Although they are turned off, they still consume energy. How much more when you total their consumptions in a day and then for the entire month? Likewise, the remote controlled devices are always put on a ready mode. Such state of readiness also consumes home energy. Apart from these concerns, the parts of the home contribute to the escalating home energy consumptions. Among these are the attics, fireplaces, and the rest of the less obvious parts of the house.



The General Purpose of the Home Energy Audit

Why is a home energy audit recommended by the experts? What is this process devoted for? For everyone's clear understanding, the ultimate purpose of the home energy audit is the making possible of the efficiency in the energy utilized in the home. When the home energy used is maximized and securely utilized, there will be the most possible reduction of the utility bills today and the succeeding years to come.

A home energy audit will work best for homeowners who are confronted with very large electric bills. In fact, conducting the needed home energy audit will let you save thousands of dollars in the upcoming years. Stop dwelling on the windows and doors you have at home for they are obvious spots that let you lose much home energy. Why not look into the less obvious spots like the attic, the ceilings, and the fireplace?

Most homeowners put away their unused things and keep them in the attic. Sure, the attic is a great place to store your junked stuffs. But then didn't you ever glance at your attic and consider the renovation of it so that there will be proper insulation in there? You may indeed throw out big bucks for its improvement but it will do your attic good, so to speak. The attic must be installed with open air vents so as to keep up a good air circulation. When there is no proper air circulation in the attic, the utmost tendency is for the roofing and the stored stuff in the attic to get destroyed.

Now take into consideration the ceiling you've got at home. It must have enough insulation so that the home energy will be kept from escaping from it and to go upwards to the attic. The easiest way for heat to transfer into the attic is through a hole in the ceiling.

Also take a good look at the fireplace. When the concern of regulating and controlling the temperature inside the home comes in, the fireplace is the most difficult spot to cover. As the design of the fireplace is concerned, it is particularly aimed at moving the smoke out of the interior environment of the home.

The process is known as the propulsion of the heat. But then the main problem is that whenever the fireplace is not in use, it still goes on with the propulsion of the heat towards the exterior borders of your home.

When dealing with a fireplace, you should bear in your mind that the flue must always be kept closed when it is not being used. But if you intend to have it open, simply turn off the heater inside your home since it will come out of the vents then cross the room, and then right into the fireplace the heat will be blown out. For some logical reasons, such situation will just cause you a nightmare in terms of the electrical bills that will confront you.

If you are serious with your intention of cutting back your home energy costs, a home energy audit will be best.

With the abovementioned home energy conservation tips, you can free up more bucks without increasing your income.

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