



# Energy Savings Checklist

- Replace 10 inefficient incandescent bulbs with CFL bulbs. Save up to \$100/ year
- Install and correctly set a programmable thermostat. Save \$150-\$350/ year
- Switch out your showerhead for an efficient WaterSense model. Save \$50-\$100/ year
- Use a power strip for electronics and appliances and remember to flip the switch. Save \$42/ year
- Shave just 3 minutes off your shower time. Save \$30/year
- Set the refrigerator to 36°F - 40°F and the freezer to 0°F - 5°F.
- Unless temperatures are extreme, use fans to stay comfortable.
- Use shades and insulated drapes to block out the hot sun in the summer and reduce heat loss in the cool months.
- Pre-cycle; purchase lasting products with minimal packaging and choose reusable bags, towels and napkins to reduce waste.
- Collect your food scraps in an indoor vermicompost bin instead of sending them to the landfill.
- Take all these actions and save more than \$600 and 3,470 lbs of carbon dioxide this year!
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## Finding Your Place

When it comes to the community you are joining, look for signs of activities that will help you live sustainably and make new connections. “Green teams” made up of residents and property managers help spread information and improve operations. Community gardens offer access to green spaces and fresh and healthy foods- often free of pesticides and other chemicals. If these options don’t exist when you move in, consider starting them yourself!

### When you are weighing your rental options:

-  **Consider location:**  
 Staying close to the places you need to go will reduce your gasoline bills, and public transportation options can be a major benefit.
-  **Obtain past energy bills:**  
 Utilities can be a hidden cost when comparing your rental options, but they make a big difference in affordability.
-  **Ask about age of appliances and windows:**  
 Old appliances and windows are typically less efficient, so new models are a plus.
-  **Ask about recycling options:**  
 Recycling can reduce your impacts on local landfills, and often reduces the costs of trash pick-up fees.



## A Renter's Guide to Energy Efficiency



**+ Install a programmable thermostat and set it based on your home schedule. Keep the original to re-install when you move out.**

**+ Plug appliances and electronics into a power strip and switch it off when you leave to reduce standby energy use.**

**+ Switch out incandescent light bulbs with CFLs or LEDs.**

**+ Best temperature settings: 78° in the summer, 68° in the winter.**

**+ Reduce drafts and air loss with low-cost weatherization strips around doors and windows.**

**+ Clean dust and dirt off the refrigerator coils to help it run efficiently. Check that the refrigerator is set to 36°F - 40°F and the freezer to 0°F - 5°.**

**+ Pre-cycle by purchasing items with less packaging.**

**+ Use drapes and shades to regulate temperature.**

**+ Save water with every flush by placing a water-filled plastic jug or bag in the tank.**

**+ Shorten your showers.**

**TIPS**

**Water Tips:**  
The average home water and sewer bill can be as much as \$500 a year. On top of that, heating water can account for up to 25% of your home energy bill. By making a few simple changes in the way you use water, you could save \$170 every year. Get leaky faucets and toilets fixed; run the dishwasher only when it is full; wash clothes in cold water; and put a jacket on the hot water heater, set no hotter than 120° F.

**Stop Energy Vampires:**  
TVs, cable boxes, computers, chargers, and other appliances suck electricity from outlets even when they are off. These energy “vampires” account for \$120 of annual electricity use in the average home. To avoid paying for standby energy, plug electronics and appliances into an easily accessible power strip and get in the habit of flipping the switch.

**Kitchen Culture:**  
Your kitchen can be low-impact. Choose the microwave over the oven for small cooking needs – it heats the food more efficiently. Consider collecting food waste in a compact vermicompost bin and using the rich soil in a money-saving countertop herb garden.

# Why Reduce Energy?



Energy is consumed and paid for in many different ways. When it comes to energy management, America's 95 million renters face a unique set of challenges. Nearly all renters pay energy bills themselves, but have little say over the efficiency and quality of the appliances and windows in their home. The costs add up; in 2009, renters in the United States spent an average of \$1,141 annually on heating and electricity alone.

There are many steps you can take to manage energy use. By starting with the steps highlighted in this pamphlet, you'll soon have more money to save or spend on products and services that could benefit the local community. As an energy savvy renter, you'll also be doing your part to protect the environment by avoiding carbon emissions that are contributing to climate change.

## Learn More



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