ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

Prevent overloading circuits

Prevent overloading equipment and circuits. It can cause insulation to burn, create sparks and leave exposed wires.

Only use surge protectors with internal circuit breakers

These units will trip the breaker if the power strip is overloaded and shorted to prevent overheating.

Remember to insulate

Keep heat where it belongs with proper insulation in attics and walls. You'll save energy 24/7 and be eligible for hundreds of dollars in rebates from Georgia Power.

Focus on the fireplace

Close the flue damper tightly, or leave cracked if it's a standing pilot light when the fireplace is not in use. Consider increasing fireplace efficiency with a heat-circulating fireplace and chimney adapter system.

Check outlets

Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, exposed wires, or broken plates. If identified, get them fixed by a qualified electrician.

Let the sun shine in

Keeping the blinds and shades open during the day is a no-cost way to naturally heat your home. Close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Let it flow

Heating accounts for as much as 50 percent of a home's typical winter energy usage. Maximize the efficiency of the unit by changing the filters once a month, or every three months for pleated filters. Ensure that heating vents are clear of any obstructions, such as furniture or drapes.

Be safe with the use of space heaters

Keep space heaters away from furniture, curtains, sinks, tubs, and water. Do not lay rugs or carpet over the cord. Do not use heaters if the cord is frayed or broken, and do not use an extension cord. Turn off heaters before leaving home or going to bed.

Fairburn
Situated to Succeed

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

Conduct home checks

Developing a schedule to conduct home checks of appliances and outlets is a simple way to catch potential fire hazards.

Have access to a fire extinguisher

Know where the nearest fire extinguishers are and how to use them. Only Class C extinguishers are safe to use on energized electrical equipment.

Replace caulk and stripping

Replace cracked or peeling caulk or weather stripping around doors and windows to save up to 10 percent on energy use.

Keep your air vents free of obstructions; *Do not block vents*

To maintain even temperatures throughout your home, keep air vents and registers clear of obstructions such as furniture, curtains, and rugs.

Use fans to make the air feel cooler

Using a ceiling or area fan in the summer will make the air feel up to six degrees cooler. However, use fans only if you are in the room. Running the fan doesn't lower the temperature; it just makes you feel cooler.

Seal gaps and cracks around rim joists

Sealing rim joist air leaks can make a big improvement in your home’s energy use—especially in the winter. Use caulk or expanding spray foam to seal areas between the sill plate and foundation, in cavities between rim joists and all electrical penetrations, and around pipes and ventilation ducts that pass outside of the house.

Fairburn
Situated to Succeed

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

Visit EnergySaver.gov

Visit EnergySaver.gov for guides and videos that show you how to complete DIY projects, including caulking, weather stripping, installing storm windows, and improving your water heater efficiency. See the Weatherization section for more steps to get started.

Avoid phantom energy loss

Phantom load or standby power refers to the electric power consumed by electronic equipment and appliances while they are switched off or in the standby mode. To avoid phantom energy loss, unplug devices when not in use, or use a power strip and turn the strip off.

Shop for energy-efficient appliances

Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when purchasing televisions, computer monitors and other electronic devices.

Equip computers with sensors that will turn them off automatically after a set period of inactivity

Easy money. You can save up to $50 or more per computer by activating system standby or hibernate features.

Do not leave electronics on

Turn off TVs, computers, and other electronic devices when not in use.

Fairburn
Situated to Succeed

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

Operate your home appliances during off-peak hours

Take advantage of peak-use pricing and operate your home appliances—like your washer, dryer, and dishwasher – during off-peak times. Off-peak electricity rates apply during times when power demand is lower resulting in reduced rates. This will also help reduce the load on your home's electrical system.

Save up to $100 a year with a programmable thermostat

Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping and save up to $100* a year.

Install low flow showerheads and faucets

Install low flow showerheads and faucet aerators – they reduce hot water consumption by up to 50 percent. And take showers instead of baths – you'll use about half as much water.

Cut your energy costs by more than half with a heat pump water heater

Learn how using heat pump technology with a water heater can be two to three times more efficient and result in big savings on your electric bill.

Report leaks immediately

If you are renting, report leaking faucets to your property manager or owner. If you own your property, get a licensed plumber onsite for repair. One drop of hot water per minute wastes about 60 gallons of water per week and the energy to heat it.

Check your water heater temperature

Fairburn
Situated to Succeed

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

If you are renting, check with your property maintenance or manager to ensure the water heater temperature is set to 120 degrees F. If you own your property, you can check this setting on your own. Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm or setting to the recommended 120 degrees F can cut energy use in half. Using the cold cycle reduces energy use even more.

Cut your water heating bills

There are four primary ways to cut your water heating bills: (1) use less hot water; (2) turn down the thermostat on your water heater;(3) insulate your water heater and pipes; and (4) buy a new, more efficient model

Use hot water for laundry sparingly

Wash your clothes – a full load at a time – in warm or cold water and rinse in cold. Use hot water sparingly. And don't use too much detergent. Overusing makes your machine work harder.

Use your dryer for consecutive loads

Dry clothes in consecutive loads so the dryer doesn't have to reheat every time. Separate loads into heavy and light- weight items for more even drying and remove clothes when they're still slightly damp. Clean the lint filter after each load.

Run the dishwasher when it's full

Wait until your dishwasher is full before using it. Automatic dishwashers require the same amount of hot water and electricity to wash a partial or full load. Turn off the drying cycle if you do not need to dry dishes immediately.

Check your refrigerator and freezer temperature

Set your refrigerator temperature between 37 degrees and 40 degrees and your freezer at 0 degrees. If accessible, clean the condenser coils at least every six months. Make sure refrigerators and freezers are as full as possible and that the seals are in good condition.

Keep items hot in the oven

Place food in the oven as soon as it has preheated and avoid opening the oven door excessively.

Retain heat while cooking

Fairburn
Situated to Succeed

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

When cooking, use the range rather than the oven when possible. Match pots and pans to burner size to minimize heat loss. Use lids on your pots to keep in the heat.

Cook small portions in the microwave

Cooking small portions in the microwave or toaster oven generates less heat than the stove or oven and can reduce electrical usage for cooking by as much as 80 percent.

Always wash a full load of dishes

Unless they have independently operating compartments, most automatic dishwashers require the same amount of hot water and electricity to wash a partial or full load.

Avoid hand-washing and pre-rinsing dishes

Let your dishwasher do the work and save up to 3 times the water.

Close the damper on your fireplace

If your unit has a fireplace, close the damper when there is no reason to prevent air from escaping up the chimney.

Use appliances that produce heat when it's coolest

In summer, avoid using appliances that give off heat during the hottest times of the day as they will make your cooling system work that much harder. Cook your meals, wash your dishes, and launder your clothes in the morning or in the late evening, when the demand on your cooling system is less.

Set your thermostat for the season

Set your thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter and leave it alone. With each degree decrease on your thermostat in the winter and increase in the summer, you can

Fairburn
Situated to Succeed

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

see a 3-4 percent decrease in energy use. You can expect a 3-4% increase in energy use for every degree you set the thermostat lower in the summer and higher in the winter.

Clear plants & brush away from your outside heating and cooling unit

Keep plants and brush at least three feet away from outside heating and cooling units so they can operate more efficiently.

Turn on your ceiling fan for summer savings

If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort. During moderately hot weather, ceiling fans may allow you to avoid using your air conditioner altogether.

Use your window shades appropriately

On winter days, open window shades that allow direct sunlight to enter to help heat your home. On summer days, close shades to block the sun's rays.

Keep doors & windows closed when using your heating or cooling system

There’s no need to heat or cool the outdoors. Save money and energy by keeping conditioned air inside where it belongs.

Lower your thermostat for large gatherings

Lower your thermostat when large groups of people are expected during the winter. Because our bodies act as small heaters and humidifiers, a gathering will compensate for the lower setting.

Save up to $300 a year with an energy-efficient heat pump

If your heating and cooling system is older, consider installing a more efficient system with a higher SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio). The most energy-efficient way to heat and cool your home year-round, today’s heat pumps are easy to install and maintain.

Make sure your attic is well ventilated

Proper attic ventilation can reduce your energy consumption and increase your comfort during summer’s heat and winter’s chill. Natural air flow in the attic also keeps the roof decking cool and dry, extending the life of roof shingles. Be sure attic soffit, gable and ridge vents are not blocked so air flows freely through them.

Install storm doors

A storm door creates a pocket of insulated air space between itself and your house’s exterior door. This reduces heat transfer into and out of your home, lowering heating and cooling costs.

Use an electric blanket

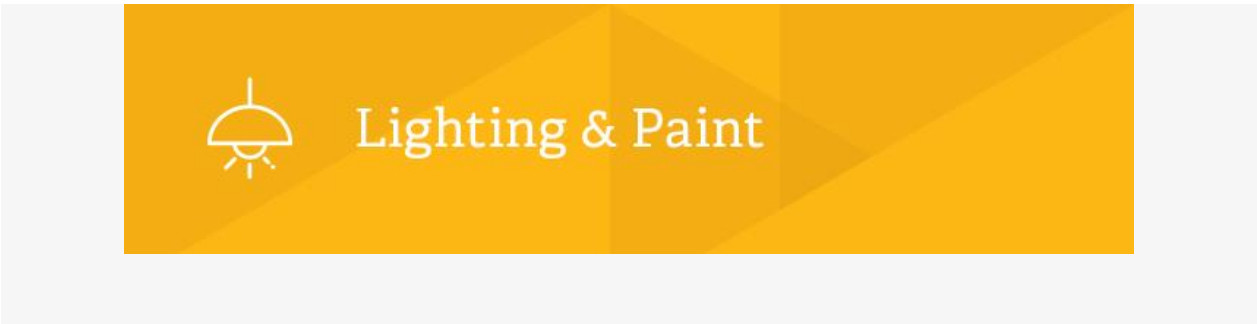
Fairburn
Situated to Succeed

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

Electric blankets save you money during the winter because they enable you to lower your thermostat setting. And, each degree you set your thermostat back saves you about 3-4% on heating costs. If you have an electric blanket, remember to use it wisely: Turn it off during the day and place another blanket on top of it to keep in the heat. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions about covering it and securing the corners to your mattress.

Remember to change your filters

If your heating and cooling equipment is in your unit and you have access to it, clean or change the filters every month. A dirty filter makes your equipment work harder – which will result in higher bills. Change your filters once a month during the heating and cooling season. If you have pleated filters, change them at least every three months. If you've replaced your air filters but your system still seems to be performing poorly, have it serviced by a licensed contractor.



Replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs

The average U.S. household has about 70 lightbulbs. Change standard light bulbs in your home to ENERGY STAR® qualified LED bulbs. LEDs use 90 percent* less energy than standard bulbs, saving you more than $80 in electricity costs over its lifetime, and can last up to 15 times longer

Lighter décor reflects light

Decorate with light-colored walls, rugs, window treatments and upholstery to reflect light and reduce the need for artificial light.

Turn off your lights

Turning off just one 60-watt incandescent bulb before you leave the house for the day can save about $15* per year in energy costs. Always turn off the lights when leaving a room, too. It's the

Fairburn
Situated to Succeed

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

easiest way to save energy and money. If it’s practical, invest in occupancy sensors, which automatically turn lights on and off for you.

Fire up the grill

Reduce the temperature inside your home by using an outdoor grill or smoker instead of indoor ovens and stoves.

Tune up the A/C

Have your A/C professionally serviced now to ensure it's running efficiently. Trim nearby plants around the A/C units so they can receive proper air flow. Nearly 20 percent of your monthly energy use may be attributed to cooling your home in the summer. Inefficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems can also amount to hundreds of dollars in additional energy costs every year.

Watch the windows

Cleaning windows or dusting blinds? Be sure to leave them open to take advantage of natural light during the day. Consider opening windows, and turning off your A/C, when cooler weather allows.

Pool planning

Pool pumps can use a significant amount of energy when running constantly. Operate pool pumps the minimum number of hours needed to keep the pool clean and invest in a timer to control hours of operation. Also, consider using a pool cover for additional energy savings.

Focus on the fridge

Proper cleaning and maintenance of the refrigerator, such as dusting the dirt from refrigerator coils and removing food to allow air to circulate, can reduce its energy consumption

Fairburn
Situated to Succeed