

Saving Energy in the Warmer Weather



Here are some tips about saving energy during the summer months. Try a few - you can help the environment, be a good role model for others, and save some money, too.

Cooling:

- Avoid air conditioning when possible and otherwise use sparingly. Clean AC filters regularly.
- If you are in the market for a new air-conditioner, buy an Energy Star product.
- Use fans and open windows whenever you can and close off rooms that don't need cooling.
- Install a whole house fan, leave shades closed during the day, and/or install attic insulation.
- Install awnings, insulating shades or blinds, or solar window screens to shade your home from the sun (especially on the south-facing windows).
- Replace incandescent lighting and halogen bulbs with CFL or LCD bulbs. They use less energy, and also add much less heat to your home.

Appliances:

- Use your appliances wisely: Line dry clothes whenever you can, run only full loads in washer, dryer and dishwasher, let dishes air dry in the dishwasher, replace filters and do regular routine maintenance on all appliances.
- Turn your water heater down to 120°F. Wash clothes in cold water. Clean dryer's lint filter with each use.
- Use your microwave, toaster-oven, slow cooker or grill instead of your stove or oven.
- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use. Set your computer and printer to go on "sleep mode" after a few minutes without use, and turn them off at night. Attach electronics and appliances to a "power strip" and turn that off to avoid "phantom" energy loads.

Extra Tips:

- Schedule an energy audit through your electricity company or MassSave (for MA residents).
- Buy a fuel-efficient car, drive the speed limit, and avoid abrupt starts and stops. Walk or bicycle whenever you can instead of using your car.