# 6 WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER

Spend \$ on Beach Vacations, Not Energy Bills









# **CHILL OUT**

Your refrigerator uses more energy than any other standard household appliance. Think about it: it's on all the time and it's working to keep a large area cool, whether it's full of food or not.

#### Ease the Burden

Make sure it's pulled a few inches away from the wall to allow for proper cooling around its condenser coils

• These coils have refrigerant running through them, so also make sure to dust them once in awhile

Older Fridge Models

Newer Fridge Models

- Ideal refrigerator temperature range = 37 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit
- Ideal freezer temperature range = 0 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit
- Ready to upgrade? Pick <u>one of these ENERGY STAR® certified models</u> so you can save between \$35–\$300 in energy costs over its lifetime.
  - Models listed as Tier 2 on the first page qualify for \$100 rebate from your local utility
  - Models listed as Tier 3 on the second page qualify for \$150 rebate from your local utility
  - According to the <u>EPA</u>, when writing about ENERGY STAR®, it is correct to state that a product is "ENERGY STAR® certified," "ENERGY STAR® qualified," or that the "product has earned the ENERGY STAR®." So when shopping, any of those terms represent a quality, energy efficient product.

## WHY SWEAT? HOW TO PREP YOUR HOME FOR SUMMER

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# Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit

Any hotter and you'll have to mix in cold at the tap so it's comfortable to the touch. This can reduce the costs associated with water heating by 7-11%.

Worried that the lower tank temperature will mean longer wait times for hot water? That's a common misconception. The tank temperature actually dictates how hard the tank's heating coils constantly have to work to keep the water in the tank itself hot. This does not affect the distance between the tank and you at the faucet.

Concerned that the lower tank temperature will mean you'll no longer be able to fill your tub up completely for a hot bath? Another common misconception. Your ability to fill up is only dictated by the size of your tank. How many gallons does it hold and heat at once? Are those gallons enough to fill up your tub?

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# Lower your thermostat by just one degree to save 5% on your bill

If you use natural gas or oil heat, the easiest way to lower your heating bill is to lower your thermostat. "For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you'll save up to 5 percent on heating costs," according to the Consumer Energy Center. When you're home during the day or evening, set the temperature to 68 degrees. At night and when not at home, lower it even more. When away from home for an extended period of time, turn the set point to 55 degrees to avoid freezing pipes.

Take this vigilance one step further by <u>installing</u> a <u>NEST thermostat</u>, which can auto-adjust the temperature for you for peak efficiency and safety. It's "smart" ability to notify you if your home's temperature drops dangerously low makes it better than a regular or "dumb" programmable thermostat. Plus NEST has <u>additional products</u> that further automate other features in your home and save even more energy.



### **Switch your electricity provider**

An online comparison shopping tool, <u>PointClickSwitch</u>, can tell you which suppliers are willing to give you power at up to 20% less cost. (Think about how much that can save you in just the next three months!)

Spring and fall are the best times to lock in low rates not yet being hiked up due to peak cooling and heating seasons. The rate is definitely important, but also consider the length of contract and if there's a cancellation fee. For example, I'm moving out of my apartment in December, so I shouldn't sign on for a contract any longer than 7 months and having a \$0 cancellation fee would make me feel a lot more comfortable with my decision.

Want green energy through wind or solar, but can't physically put up a turbine or panels? Use PointClickSwitch to find responsible suppliers that get power from solar and wind farms. Once you start saving you can then use those savings on our suggested step #5, which is probably the most valuable step you can take. So pretty much your new rate savings make step #5 practically free!

# SCHEDULE A HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR® ENERGY AUDIT



Dive deeper into whole house energy efficiency to figure out if you have hidden energy waste costing you each month.

A Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Energy Audit is a comprehensive assessment of your home and its systems in order to determine how energy is being used in your home and identify specific opportunities for improvement. It is designed to find the source of problems you're experiencing, like rooms that are too hot or utility bills that are too high.

During the audit, a certified energy auditor will inspect your home and use diagnostic testing such as a blower door test and infrared camera imaging to measure the performance of heating and cooling systems, appliances, insulation levels, and how air is leaking in and out of your house.



Once the energy audit is complete, customers receive a full written report of our detailed findings. Your audit report is designed to help you prioritize energy efficiency opportunities in your home and will cover observations and recommendations pertaining to:

- Health and Safety
- Air Leakage
- Insulation
- Heating and Cooling System(s)
- Water Heating
- Lighting and Appliances
- Behavioral Improvements





## **BENEFITS**

- Normally \$400-\$500 a pop, Maryland subsidizes these so you'll only pay \$100.
- Efficient bulbs installed at no cost along with water-saving shower heads, smart power strips and other fun technology.
- You get to keep the report which details your home's energy profile with measurements and pictures.

#### **UPGRADES THAT PAY YOU BACK**

In addition to the money you'll save from reduced energy use, you may be eligible for rebates and tax credits (up to \$3,150 depending on the utility\*\*) to help offset the cost of the improvements.

Visit <u>greeNEWit.com</u> or call 866.994.7639 to get started today.



these yourself

## **START SAVING ENERGY TODAY**

Whatever the report comes back with, DON'T DIY. We repeat, projects that affect air circulation, insulation, or HVAC equipment should not be done without specialized equipment and pre/post measurements. It could end up at best, a waste of time, and at worst, causing a health and safety issue.

Have you heard the phrase, "houses need to breathe"? That's true and if you caulk, spray foam, and seal up the leaks the energy audit identified, you're at risk for OVER-sealing your house. Over-sealing can lead to mold, stuffy air, and other moisture issues.

Our <u>Building Performance Institute</u>-certified technicians know where and how to install the energy saving solutions to solve your home's problems and not put your family at risk. We've even been recognized nationally as an <u>ENERGY STAR Home Performance</u> Contractor of the Year.

### **JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Energy Audit is one element of greeNEWit's portfolio that can help improve your home's comfort, energy efficiency, durability and safety while lowering your utility bills. It pinpoints how specific improvements throughout your home can work together to make your entire home more comfortable and save you money.

### **SIGN UP TODAY**









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