

## Minnesota Energy Tips: No-cost ways to beat the heat, conserve energy

Written by  
Monday, 15 July 2013 11:51

---



There are many simple no-cost action steps you can take this summer to conserve energy and reduce your utility bills. Here is a list of ways to beat the heat and save money:

- Close curtains and blinds and pull shades during the hottest times of the day, to keep the hot sun out. Open them once the sun goes down.
- Use a programmable thermostat to allow your house to be warmer than normal when you are away; set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or higher) when you are at home and need cooling.
- Keep doors and windows closed when cooling (or heating) your home.
- Keep air conditioner coils clean and free of dust and dirt to increase the efficiency and life of your air conditioner; replace filters regularly.
- Use ceiling fans to produce a wind-chill effect and increase cooling efficiency; turn the fans off when not in the room.
- Enroll in utility energy-saving programs to get discounts on summer electric bills.
- Use a microwave instead of an oven to cook; ovens take longer to cook and can make your house warmer, requiring more of your AC system.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes; air dry dishes and dry clothes outside.
- Take short showers—with low-flow showerheads—instead of baths to reduce hot water use.
- Turn off lights, TVs, entertainment systems, and computers and monitors when not needed or not in use.
- Drive sensibly; aggressive driving wastes fuel. Carpool to work and events when possible.

Getting a [home energy assessment](#) requires a fee, but it is a first step to identifying a wide range of energy-saving measures. Gas or electric utilities can arrange energy assessments.

For a host of energy conservation tips, check out the U.S. Department of Energy's [Energy Savers website](#)

. Also, the Division of Energy Resources offers an energy guide called "

[Appliances, Lighting & Electronics](#)

" that covers many energy-saving suggestions.

Source: Minnesota Department of Commerce