



# Energy Efficiency Tips

Save the planet while lowering your energy bill!



## Turn it OFF!

- **Turn off** lights and electric devices when you don't need them.
- **Unplug electronics when you're not using them** – especially while you're on vacation. When you return, plug in items only as you need them. Unplug chargers when you aren't using them.
- **Use computer and game console power management features.** Default settings may use a lot of energy. Don't forget to turn off your computer or game when finished.



## Change your laundry and dishwasher habits:

- **Choose a laundry drying cycle that uses the moisture sensor** rather than the timer. You'll save time and money, and avoid over-drying that can shrink and damage clothes.
- **Even better, hang your laundry for air drying.** You'll save on your energy bill and lessen wear on your clothes.
- **Make sure your dishwasher and clothes washer are FULL for each use.**
- **Use a lower temperature setting for your clothes washer** and always rinse with cold water.
- **Run your washers after 7pm,** during off-peak hours, to reduce stress on the electric grid.



## Change your thermostat habits:

- **Use shades, blinds, drapes, vents, windows, and doors** to help with heating and cooling. Open them to gain the sun's heat and close them to block the heat. Close vents in unused rooms.
- **Dress warm or cool** rather than turning your thermostat up or down.
- **Use your thermostat's programmable settings to match your lifestyle.** Better yet, give your thermostat a vacation when you take one and turn it off completely.
- **Leave your thermostat's fan switch on "auto"** so the fan runs only when necessary. Fans set to "on" will run continuously, whether or not the heating or cooling system is running.



### **Miscellaneous:**

- **Put a lid on that pot when you cook and limit oven use** to decrease your natural gas or electric consumption.
- **Take shorter showers** to save water and reduce the energy used by your water heater.
- **Turn down water heater temperature.** If your hot water is hot enough to burn you, it's too hot. Turn down your water heater to save energy and reduce the risk of burns.



### **Power Strips:**

- **Use power strips for your electronics.** Many electronics consume energy even when you're not using them. These 'energy vampires' add 10% to your energy bill and cost the average home up to \$200 a year. Plugging chargers, computers, TV, printers, and game consoles into a power strip lets you turn them off with one switch. Better yet, use a smart power strip — it turns off automatically when devices are not in use.



### **Purchases:**

- Before you buy new electric devices, **look for energy efficient options.** Products with an Energy Star® label use energy efficiently. You can find them on computers, TVs, washers, dryers, kitchen appliances, lights, and even fans. Buying Energy Star – or small appliances that better fit your lifestyle – will reduce your electric bill.

Visit our website for energy efficiency resources and links to help you find and compare efficient products:

**<http://sfwater.org/energyefficiency>**

