

No Cost Tips



- **Use thermostat setbacks and turn it down.** Turning down the thermostat when your home is not occupied or at night can save about 1 percent for each degree the thermostat is lowered over a eight hour period.
- **Turn off appliances when they are not being used.** Appliances still draw energy even when they are off or in standby mode--if they have a clock or light to tell you they are powered up.
- **Turn off lights when you leave the room.** Five 100-watt incandescent light bulbs left on for five hours a day costs \$91.25 to run for a year at 10 cents per kilowatt-hour.
- **Let the sun heat your house for free.** In winter, open drapes or shades in the morning on south facing windows and then close them at night.



Residential heating accounts for more than 21% of carbon emissions. Know that you are making a difference when you are energy efficient!

Energy Audits

Start your green living at home with a home energy audit. Here are a few things to check:

___ **Weatherstripping.** Repair weak and damaged weatherstripping and caulking around windows, doors and other entry points.

___ **Light bulbs.** If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an Energy Star qualified CFL, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year and more than \$600 million in annual energy costs.

___ **Electrical Outlets.** Anything plugged in to a outlet sucks energy even when not in use. Use power strips and shut them off.

___ **Thermostat.** By lowering your central air temperature two degrees in the winter and let it go up by two degrees in the summer you can save up to 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year, all lowering your energy bills.

___ **Furnace and Air Conditioning filters.** Keeping filters clean will help them function efficiently. And give you better air quality.

___ **Water heater.** Turn your water heater to 120F (49C) degrees. Using a water heater insulated blanket will reduce heat loss by up to 40%.

___ **Toilet tank.** You can save water with a low flow toilet. Another idea, displace the water (a gallon milk jug with rocks in it), and you will use much less water with each flush.

Home Energy Saving Tips

Green



Cleaning our Environment

Increasing Efficiency



Saving Money

**Green³
Grand Forks**
www.grandforksgov.com

Public Information Center

701-746-INFO

Energy prices are on the rise. Heating your house and running your appliances likely are costing more than ever.

If you are looking for a few ways to save money at home, but are not ready for major renovations...

...this brochure is here to help.



It covers easy-to-do, low-cost or no-cost money-saving measures to make your home more energy efficient today.

No-Cost Tips

- *Wash only a full load of dishes in the dishwasher.* Do not use the dry cycle. Allow dishes to air dry or towel dry them instead.
- *Use cold water with cold-water detergents to wash clothes.* Wash only full loads.



Home Energy Savings...Makes Cents.

Low-Cost Tips

- *Hang clothes to dry.* Be careful if hanging clothes indoors to avoid excess moisture and mold issues.
- *Heat only the rooms in your house that are used.* Close off heat in rooms that are not occupied.
- *Set the temperature on your electric water heater to 120F (49C).* If you leave the house for long periods of time, turn the water heater off. You don't have to have hot water in the house when you are on vacation.
- *Keep the cooling coils on the refrigerator clean.* Make sure air can flow around the refrigerator freely. Keep the refrigerator and freezer stocked; they use less energy when full.
- *Use smaller appliances when possible.* Use a toaster oven or microwave whenever possible.
- *Keep lids on pans when cooking.* Water boils faster and food will cook faster when covered because heat is not lost to the surrounding air, saving you money.
- *Close the flu damper on fireplaces.* Leaving the damper on a fireplace open is like leaving a window open.
- *Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs).* CFL's use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer.
- *Install an insulated blanket on your hot water heater.* A \$20 (approx.) blanket will pay for itself.
- *Install insulation on the hot water pipe that leaves the water heater.* Insulating can raise hot water temperatures in pipes 2-4F degrees, allowing you to have a lower setting on the water heater.
- *Install a Energy Star Programmable thermostat.* Program your thermostat to turn down in the evening and then turn on in the morning for thermostat setbacks.
- *Energy Audits* Evaluate your homes energy efficiency. See back cover for your checklist.

