



Co-Mo Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®



TOP 10 SUMMER ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

- No. 1 Shades, curtains, trees:** Keeping direct sunlight out of your house will keep temperatures down. Plant trees for shade, or use curtains or shades — especially on west- and south-facing windows. If you plant trees, make sure they're not evergreen: You want the leaves to fall off in the winter to help with heating.
- No. 2 Filters:** Check and change your air-conditioning filters at least once a month. Also, periodically clean the coils on both the outside and inside A/C units as well. These steps can reduce your power bill by 10 percent and will prevent the No. 1 cause of service calls.
- No. 3 Air loss:** In both winter and summer, the trick is to keep the inside air inside and the outside air outside. Use the flame from a candle to find air leaks around windows and doors. Then fix the leaks with either caulk, weather-stripping or both.
- No. 4 Insulation:** Proper insulation can save you 30 percent on cooling costs. If you can get into your attic, that's where to start adding. And while you're up there, make sure your air ducts are sealed and insulated as well.
- No. 5 Ceiling fans:** A fan will allow you to set your thermostat at 78 degrees and make it feel like 72 degrees. They're cheap at the local home-improvement warehouse, and can be easily installed by those with moderate skills. Energy Star-certified ceiling fans do even better, moving air up to 20 percent more efficiently than conventional models. And if you get a light kit, get one with compact fluorescent light bulbs. They produce 70 percent less heat. Note: Ceiling fans make the air feel cooler on your skin, but they don't actually lower the temperature. Which means that if you're not in the room, it's not doing anything. Turn it off.
- No. 6 Experiment with your thermostat:** Try raising your setting a degree or two and see if you notice. If you don't have a programmable thermostat, check them out.
- No. 7 Dress for the season:** Lounging around in jeans in the summer is expensive. Wear as little as possible in the summer. (Don't look good partially dressed? Dim the lights and drop your power bill even more.)
- No. 8 A/C ducts:** Do you close the vents in rooms that you're not using? Well, don't. Closing more than 10 percent of your vents can create an air pressure imbalance that will reduce your air conditioner's efficiency. So if you've got central air, let it flow.
- No. 9 Light bulbs:** Unless you've been living in a cave, you already know that CFLs use less electricity and last much longer than conventional bulbs. They also produce a lot less heat. And now you can get them in virtually any shade and configuration. If you haven't seen them lately, look again.
- No. 10 When it's hottest, be cool.** When it's the hottest part of the summer day, don't run appliances that create heat. The hot part of the day is the time for iced tea and TV.

