

**9** Avoid “Phantom Power” losses by using power strips with on/off switches. Most electric devices use 75% of their total energy consumption when not in use or in “standby” mode. Plug televisions, DVD players, phone chargers and other occasional use appliances into a power strip so that you can shut off all power to the devices with a single button. Develop the habit of unplugging small appliances such as, toasters, blenders, mixers, microwave ovens. When not in use to conserve energy.  
**Your expected savings - 5%**

-Reference([www.greenamerica.com](http://www.greenamerica.com))

**10** Finally, arrange for a professional energy advisor to conduct a whole house energy audit to assess your homes energy profile and to help you develop a plan to improve your energy efficiency. Generally the audit will identify areas most in need of improvements. DC residents with homes less than 3,000 square feet are eligible to request a free home energy audit through the DC Sustainable Energy Utility.

**For more information call  
the Sustainable Energy  
Utility at  
1-855-693-2738  
to schedule your free home  
energy audit.**

### **Suggested links to interactive energy efficiency calculators :**

- U.S. Department of Energy -  
[www.energy.gov/energytips.htm](http://www.energy.gov/energytips.htm)
- Calculate your family’s carbon footprint travelling by car, train or airplane by visiting :  
[www.terrapass.com/TerraPass](http://www.terrapass.com/TerraPass)

### **Be Informed and empowered.... Reclaim your energy power for energy savings!**

- Green America  
[www.greenamerica.com](http://www.greenamerica.com)
- U.S. Department of Energy  
[www.usdoe.gov](http://www.usdoe.gov)

*Take the OPC Challenge and incorporate these energy efficiency measures into your home. If you are an energy efficiency success story, why not share how you did it with other residents seeking to incorporate energy efficiency measures by contacting the Office of the People’s Counsel.*

*To share your energy savings success stories with us, send an email with your Energy Saver stories to:  
[pnelson@opc-dc.gov](mailto:pnelson@opc-dc.gov).*

*OPC is an independent agency of the District of Columbia Government representing energy and telecommunications services customers.*



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# 1 Become familiar with how much you pay for your monthly heating and cooling bills.

Get copies of at least 12 months of your gas and electric bills from your utilities to determine your average yearly heating and cooling usage and dollar amount of your energy bills before you make energy savings changes. Then calculate the difference in your bills after making energy efficiency improvements to see your actual energy savings.

# 2 Make turning off the lights when you leave a room a family affair.

Be creative and get children involved by having them paste reminders on your switch plates. Also, consider installing motion detector switches that will automatically turn the lights on or off when you enter or leave a room.

**This simple change in behavior could yield an energy savings of 2%.**

-Reference: ([www.greenamerica.com](http://www.greenamerica.com))

# 3 Replace your interior and exterior bulbs (where appropriate) with Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) or Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs). While these bulbs are more expensive than standard incandescent bulbs, they are more energy efficient and will reduce your cost in the long term. Changing all of the bulbs in and around your home could save you 10% on your energy bill.

-Reference: ([www.usdoe.gov](http://www.usdoe.gov))



# 4 Install Energy Star rated ceiling fans

in the most frequently used rooms of your home to give your air conditioner a rest while keeping you comfortable in the cooling months.

Switching your ceiling fan to turn clockwise during the heating months will help to circulate warm air through your home.

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. **To learn more about Energy Star...go to [www.doe.gov](http://www.doe.gov). Your expected savings - 19%**

-Reference: ([www.greenamerica.com](http://www.greenamerica.com))



# 5

**Do not forget your refrigerator.** It can be one of the greatest energy “guzzlers” in your home, especially, if it was made prior to 1993. Simply cleaning the cooling coils at the back of the machine every six months keeps it running efficiently. Here is another useful tip: A full refrigerator uses less energy. Use jugs of water to fill unused space in your refrigerator to help maintain the cold temperature. If you have a second refrigerator or freezer, get rid of it or unplug it.

**Your expected savings - 4%.**

-Reference: ([www.greenamerica.com](http://www.greenamerica.com))

**6 Washers and Dryers** – Did you know that washing your clothes in cold water gets them just as clean as hot water and cuts your washer’s energy use in half? Similarly drying your clothes on an outdoor or indoor rack saves

around \$100 in annual energy costs. If you are planning to replace your washer and dryer, upgrade to Energy Star rated appliances. The District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility (DC SEU) is designed to help District households, businesses, and institutions save energy and money through energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. More information about programs and rebates is available on the DC SEU website at [www.deseu.com](http://www.deseu.com).

**Your expected savings - 12%**

-Reference: ([www.greenamerica.com](http://www.greenamerica.com))

# 7 Sealing air leaks around your windows and doors with caulk and weather-

stripping is often more cost-effective than replacing your windows. Consider using insulating curtains at windows, applying low-emissivity (low-e) film to the window glass and installing storm windows or plastic window films to further reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer.

**Your expected savings - 12%**

-Reference([www.greeamerica.com](http://www.greeamerica.com))



# 8 Install a programmable thermostat

to efficiently control your heating and cooling systems year round. If you already have a programmable thermostat, check it every few months to ensure it is programmed to adjust the temperature at appropriate times. For example, is it set to adjust the temperature to maximize energy efficiency when you are asleep or at work? If your daily schedule changes, how can you save more by adjusting the thermostat settings?

**Your expected savings - 10%**

- Reference([www.greenamerica.com](http://www.greenamerica.com))