

TAKE A BITE OUT OF YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL

Reduce Your Monthly Bill by \$10 or More with 15-Minute Projects

No-cost/low-cost measures for renters and homeowners

Measure hot water temperature. Use a thermometer; lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees if it's higher than that. To be safe, turn off the water heater's circuit breaker before making any adjustment. Every 5 degrees your water temperature can be lowered means a painless \$2 monthly savings. Many water heaters remain set at unsafe temperatures -- as high as 150 degrees. Lowering temperatures by 30 degrees means a \$10 monthly savings, and reduces the risk of scalding.

Check for air leaks around doors. If you see any daylight coming in any door, this is a must-do. A better check is using a sheet of paper to see if it easily slips through a closed door's frame. If it does, install weather stripping around the frame. Sealing air leaks can save \$10 -- or more -- every month, and without the drafts, your house feels more comfortable.

Replace old lightbulbs with modern LED lighting. Still using incandescent or CFL lighting? You'd be surprised at how cheap LEDs have become, and how much brightness has improved. Replacing your old, inefficient bulbs with LEDs can reduce energy use by 45% for CFLs, and as much as 90% for incandescent bulbs. Changing bulbs in the fixtures you use most can save \$5 or more every month. Even better, LEDs increase home lighting quality.

Reduce Your Monthly Electricity Bill by 45% or More

Plan ahead to make the best choices for improving home energy efficiency

Heat pumps. Working like a refrigerator, heat pumps offer an efficient alternative to conventional electric resistance or propane furnaces and water heaters. Using a heat pump instead of your conventional electric furnace can slash home energy use by as much as half, and save you \$40 or more every month. Using a heat pump water heater could save you another \$15 or more every month.

Replace old appliances. Using an older refrigerator can cost \$5 or more every month to run than one made today. If you have a standard clothes washer that is over 10 years old, it's costing you around \$10 a month more in related energy and water costs. Choose ENERGY STAR certified appliances to maximize your energy and dollar savings without sacrificing the features you want.



Money not spent on wasted energy stays in our community, helps reduce carbon pollution, and increases local self-reliance, sustainability and resiliency

More Resources: To see examples of super-efficient passive houses, go to L2020.org/energy-action/. To learn more about tracking your carbon footprint, go to taming-bigfoot.org.