

Saving electricity at home



ENERGY-SAVING TIPS





Seattle City Light— Conserving energy for a sustainable future

Seattle City Light is proud to provide the cleanest low-cost electricity in the urban U.S. We are leading the way in the next generation of power by providing:

- More than 90% hydro and other clean, renewable energy resources
- A pioneering conservation program that has teamed up with customers to save them energy and money—since 1977, program participants saved \$806 million on their bills
- Local control and accountability, along with great customer service

There are many low-cost and no-cost ways to reduce your home's electric bill without sacrificing comfort. Check out the tips in this brochure to find out how.



Spend less on heat

- If you have electric heat, it can account for around half your electric bill during the heating season. The best way to save is to turn down your thermostat.
- For every degree you turn down your thermostat, your bill will drop 2-5%. Set your thermostat at 65-68 degrees when you are at home, and 55 (or off) at night and when you're not home.
- Turning your thermostat all the way up does NOT heat your home faster, it just wastes energy overheating to the temperature you set it to.
- Don't rely on the "Comfort Zone" setting to establish temperature: it could be as much



as 10 degrees too hot or too cold. To receive a free thermometer to check your thermostat, contact a Seattle City Light Energy Advisor at (206) 684-3800 or SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov.

- Vacuum the dust and debris from baseboard heater fins and wall fan heaters before each heating season. This will also minimize the burnt smell that usually occurs when you turn them on for the first time in the season.
- Portable heaters can save you money only if you use them to heat small areas for short periods of time in place of your furnace.
- If you have zone heating (baseboards or wall-heaters), only heat the room you are in. Make sure to have adequate air flow between your heater and furnishings.



Caution

- Do not use your oven to heat your home! It is inefficient, costly and dangerous.
- Never use kerosene heaters, propane heaters or barbecues indoors or in unventilated areas.
- Never use portable heaters near curtains, drapes, clothes, electric cords, furniture or wet areas such as sinks or bathrooms.
- Portable heaters may not be the best option where children are present. To avoid possible burns, keep children away from portable heaters. Look for models with tip-over switches that will shut the heater off if it gets knocked over.



Keep warm in winter

- Dressing warmer when the days get cooler is less expensive and more efficient than turning up your thermostat.
- Wearing layers of lightweight and loose-fitting clothing is usually warmer and more comfortable than wearing one heavy, bulky jacket.
- Keep a lap blanket or quilt on the couch to stay warm while reading or watching TV.
- Using an electric mattress pad or blanket is cheaper than heating your entire bedroom. Sometimes it's enough to just preheat your bed before you get in it.
- Use flannel sheets and/or a down comforter.



Power down your electronics

- Most electronics, computers, and monitors use power (called standby-power) even when they are turned off. Hook up your electronics to an advanced power strip so you can completely turn off your electronics when not in use.
- Check out a Kill-A-Watt plug-load monitor from the Seattle Public Library (SPL.org) to better understand the electricity use of your electronics. The Kill-A-Watt will tell you how much energy various electric devices use, and help you discover the unexpected “phantom” loads that are common when electrical devices are turned off.
- When purchasing new electronics, look for the ENERGY STAR® logo for the most energy-efficient products on the market.





Kitchen tips

- Replace loose or damaged refrigerator door seals.
- Defrost the freezer whenever more than ¼" of ice builds up.
- Cover pots tightly to reduce cooking time.
- Match the pot size to the burner size of your stovetop.
- Don't open the oven door unless necessary. The temperature can drop by as much as 25 degrees F.

TYPICAL APPLIANCE COSTS

APPLIANCE	TEMPERATURE	TIME
Electric oven	350° F	1 hour
Toaster oven	425° F	50 minutes
Crockpot	200° F	7 hours
Microwave oven	High setting	15 minutes

Source: Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings *Assumes 9.5¢/kWh



Reduce your hot water costs

- Install an efficient showerhead with a WaterSense® label. It will reduce the amount of water and energy used without cutting water pressure.
- Fix dripping faucets immediately.
- Reduce shower time. Even a couple minutes per shower really add up.
- Water heaters are set by manufacturers at 120 degrees for optimal safety and energy efficiency. Adjusting the setting could compromise both safety and efficiency.



	ENERGY	COST*
	2.0 kWh	19¢
	.95 kWh	9¢
	.7 kWh	7¢
	.36 kWh	3¢



Savings with a twist

- ENERGY STAR® bulbs use at least 75% less energy to produce the same amount of light, and last 10-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

1 CFL  = 10  incandescent

1 LED  = 25  incandescent

for you to purchase efficient lighting. City Light provides up to \$10 discount on LED light bulbs at participating retailers. For more information visit our website at seattle.gov/light/lightbulb.





Clean up with energy savings

- Run full loads in your dishwasher. Don't pre-rinse your dishes, scrape them instead. Running a full dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing dishes by hand.
- Select the air-dry or no-heat option on your dishwasher.
- For clothes washing, run full loads and select the cold water setting for both the wash and rinse cycles. Most clothes will get clean in cold water, especially if you use a detergent made for cold-water washing.
- When possible, hang dry your clothes. Your dryer is one of your most power-hungry appliances.
- Run your dryer with full loads. For the most efficient operation, clean the lint trap before each use.

Ready to save more?

Rebates from Seattle City Light can help you upgrade to more efficient technologies, and save you money for years to come. Find rebate forms and more information at seattle.gov/appliances or call an Energy Advisor at (206) 684-3800.



High-efficiency ductless heating and cooling system \$1,200 rebate

Upgrade your electric heat to an energy-efficient ductless heating and cooling system and save 25-50% on your heating costs. A ductless system provides year-round comfort, keeping you warm in winter and cool in summer. seattle.gov/ductless



Efficient heat pump water heater \$500 rebate

Stop pouring money down the drain with an old, inefficient electric water heater. Upgrade to a heat pump water heater and you could cut your water heating costs in half. seattle.gov/waterheater



WaterSense showerheads up to \$10 discount

Using an efficient showerhead is one of the most inexpensive and effective ways to reduce hot water use. The average household can save up to \$40 per year in electricity and water costs by upgrading to a WaterSense showerhead. Visit seattle.gov/light/conserve/showerhead for a list of participating retailers.



High-efficiency clothes washer \$100 rebate

Upgrade to a qualified high-efficiency clothes washer and receive a \$50 or \$100 rebate. Over its lifetime, the washer could save you enough in electricity, water, and sewer costs to cover the purchase price. These machines are also gentler on clothes and use less detergent.

seattle.gov/appliances



ENERGY STAR refrigerator replacement \$50 rebate

Replace your existing primary refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR qualified model and receive a \$50 rebate. seattle.gov/appliances



Recycle your old refrigerator or freezer \$30 rebate & free haul-away

To qualify, your fridge must be residential style, between 10 and 30 cubic feet and manufactured before 2001. seattle.gov/oldfridge



Lighting discounts up to \$10 discount

We offer instant discounts on energy-saving LED light bulbs and light fixtures. Visit seattle.gov/lightbulb for a list of participating retailers and for tips on selecting the right bulb or fixture for your needs.





Seattle City Light Utility Discount Program

The Utility Discount Program is a great way to lower bills. Income-eligible customers save 60% on Seattle City Light and 50% on Seattle Public Utilities Bills.

2016 INCOME ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	GROSS YEARLY INCOME
1	\$2,605	\$31,260
2	\$3,406	\$40,872
3	\$4,208	\$50,496
4	\$5,009	\$60,108
5	\$5,811	\$69,732
6	\$6,612	\$79,344
7	\$6,762	\$81,144
8	\$6,913	\$82,956
9	\$7,063	\$84,756
10	\$7,213	\$86,556
Each add'l	\$151	\$1,812

Section 8 or subsidized housing residents may not qualify.

If your income meets these requirements, call us today! We're happy to estimate your savings or help you enroll.

For information, call (206) 684-3417 or visit seattle.gov/save60percent.

Seattle City Light Resources

FOR MORE WAYS TO SAVE

- **Save money and energy** by upgrading to energy-efficient technologies. Contact an Energy Advisor at (206) 684-3800 or SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov.

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

- **To open, close, or transfer an account**, please call customer service at (206) 684-3000.
- **Bill pay options.** Set up automatic bill payments or sign up for electronic billing at seattle.gov/light/accounts or call (206) 733-9100.
- **Budget billing plan.** Averages your utility bills over 12 months versus every-other-month billing cycles. For information call (206) 684-3345.

PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

- **Seniors, disabled, or income-eligible customers** may qualify for the utility's rate discount program. For assistance, email udp@seattle.gov or call (206) 684-3417.
- **Payment arrangements or shut off notices.** If you are unable to pay the full amount of your utility bill by the due date, call customer service to set up a payment plan at (206) 684-3336.

HOME WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

- **Income-eligible customers.** Homeowners and renters may qualify for free energy-saving improvements to their homes. For information call (206) 684-0244.

TRANSLATION SERVICES AVAILABLE AT (206) 684-3800

- Información en español
- Impormasyon sa Tagalog
- 中文資訊
- Thông tin bằng tiếng Việt
- 한국어 정보
- Macluumaad Af-Soomaali ah



SEATTLE CITY LIGHT

700 5th Avenue, Suite 3200
P.O. Box 34023 Seattle, WA 98124-4023
(206) 684-3800

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