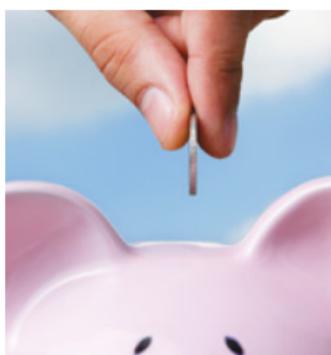


# Saving electricity at home



## 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 your comfort.



## Spend less on heat

- If you have electric heat, it accounts for around half of 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 or when you're not home. If you're used to high temperatures, try turning down your thermostat by just 2 degrees. It's easier to adjust to than a 5 or 10 degree change.
- 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 an Energy Advisor at (206) 684-3800 or [SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov](mailto: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.
- Do not use your oven to heat your home! It is inefficient, costly and dangerous.



## Caution

- Never use kerosene heaters, propane heaters, or barbecues 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. And look for models with tip-over switches that will shut the heater off if it gets knocked over.



## Power down your electronics

- Most electronics, computers, and monitors draw power (called stand-by power) even when they are turned off. Hook up your electronics to a smart 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 help you discover the unexpected “phantom” loads that are common when electrical devices are turned off.
- When purchasing new electronics, look for the Energy Forward or ENERGY STAR® logo for the most energy-efficient products on the market.



## 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 clothes 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, a down comforter, or a plump fiberfill comforter.
- Sheepskin mattress pads can keep you warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.





## Reduce your hot water costs

- Install an energy-efficient showerhead with a WaterSense® label. It will reduce the amount of water 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.



## 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	ENERGY	COST*
Electric oven	350° F	1 hour	2.0 kWh	19¢
Toaster oven	425° F	50 minutes	.95 kWh	9¢
Crockpot	200° F	7 hours	.7 kWh	7¢
Microwave oven	High setting	15 minutes	.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

- Seattle City Light makes it easy and affordable for you to purchase efficient lighting. Look for the Twist & Save label on qualified ENERGY STAR bulbs and fixtures at participating retailers. Check out our web site at [seattle.gov/twistandsave](http://seattle.gov/twistandsave).



## Clean up with energy savings

- Run full loads in your dishwasher. If you must pre-rinse your dishes, use cold water. Running a full dishwasher is almost always more energy efficient than washing dishes by hand.
- Select the air-dry 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](http://seattle.gov/appliances) or call an Energy Advisor at (206) 684-3800.



## High-efficiency ductless heating and cooling system \$1,500 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. Visit [seattle.gov/ductless](http://seattle.gov/ductless) for more information.



## 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.



## 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](http://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 \$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.



## ENERGY STAR refrigerator replacement \$50 rebate

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



## Recycle your old, secondary 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.



## Lighting discounts up to \$10 discount

We offer instant discounts on energy-saving light bulbs and light fixtures. Visit [seattle.gov/twistandsave](http://seattle.gov/twistandsave) for a list of participating retailers and for tips on selecting the right bulb or fixture for your needs.





For more information on how to save energy and money, visit [seattle.gov/light/conserve](http://seattle.gov/light/conserve) or contact Seattle City Light Energy Advisors at [SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov](mailto:SCLEnergyAdvisor@seattle.gov) or call (206) 684-3800.

## Seattle City Light Resources

### BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

- **Go paperless!** Sign-up for electronic billing at [seattle.gov/light/ebill](http://seattle.gov/light/ebill).
- **To open, close, or transfer an account**, please call customer service at (206) 684-3000.
- **Automatic bank payments.** Set up automatic bill payments at [seattle.gov/light/accounts](http://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](mailto: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 who use electric heat 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



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