

Is your home as energy efficient as it could be? Keeping the warm air in during the winter months and keeping the hot air out during the summer months not only helps you stay comfortable, it keeps your Rappahannock Electric Cooperative electric bill affordable. Not sure where to begin? The tips included in this brochure will help you identify some ways that you can save energy and cut the cost of your electric bill.

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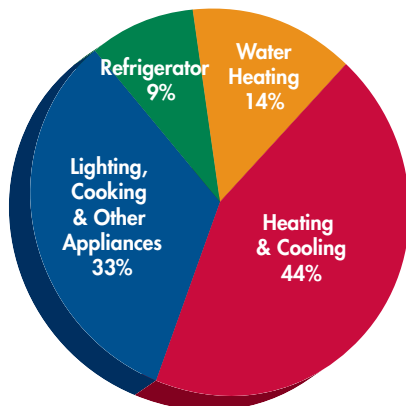


Low-cost and no-cost ways to save

1. Set your thermostat comfortably low (68° F) in the winter and comfortably high in the summer (78° F). Install a digital thermostat that will give you better control and accuracy of the temperature in your home.
2. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs
3. Air dry dishes instead of using dishwasher's drying cycle
4. Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use
5. Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVD players in standby mode still use several watts of power)
6. Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120° F
7. Take short showers instead of baths
8. Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes
9. Caulk around windows and doors to seal cracks
10. Replace air filters regularly

How we use energy in our homes*

The largest portion of a utility bill for a typical house is for heating and cooling.



*Based on national averages

Savings by room

Lifestyle makes a difference. You have complete control over how you use your electricity by choosing the ingredients that are necessary for you to maintain your standard of living. Lets take a look around the house for a few energy-saving tips.

The Attic

- Proper attic ventilation is necessary for both the heating and cooling efficiency of your home. Consider installing an attic fan to lower the attic temperature.
- Close foundation/crawl space vents in the winter and open them in the summer.
- Visually inspect your duct system in the crawl space or attic of your home to see if air is escaping. Repair air leaks with quality UL metal tape or mastic sealant.

The Bathroom

- Take shorter showers and install water-saving shower heads.
- Turn off faucets tightly and fix leaky faucets promptly. A leak of one drop per second wastes more than 250 gallons of water a month, and the energy used to heat it.

The Den

- Keep your fireplace damper closed when there's no fire in the fireplace. If you have glass fireplace doors, keep them closed as well.
- Turn off television sets, stereos and other electric appliances whenever you're not using them.

The Kitchen

- Use stove exhaust fans that vent to the outdoors as little as possible during the winter to limit sending heated air outdoors.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer stocked. Both operate at peak efficiency when they are full.

- Run your garbage disposal with cold water.
- Cook in oven-safe glass or ceramic pans when you can. They allow you to set your oven temperature 25 degrees lower than the recipe calls for.
- Keep external refrigerator and freezer coils free from dust and lint. A clean refrigerator coil doesn't have to work as hard.

The Laundry Room

- Use warm or cold water settings on the washing machine. Limit hot water use to heavily soiled clothes. Each load of laundry washed in cold water saves enough energy to power a television for up to 34 hours.
- Wash and dry full loads of laundry. It costs an average of \$.18 to wash a load of laundry. For a family of four, this cost could add up to nearly \$45.50 a month.
- Keep lint filters and vent hoses clean.

The Living Room

- Move furniture away from heating and cooling registers or radiators. Blocking or restricting airflow makes heating and air conditioning systems work harder.
- Choose light-colored, translucent lampshades. Many lampshades, while decorative, can actually reduce light or send it somewhere you don't need it.

Don't forget the outside of your home

- Turn off any outdoor lights that are not needed for security.
- Eliminate outdoor circulation pumps for ponds.
- Evergreens are effective for blocking wind. Plant them in a staggered or double line to the northwest of your home. The U.S. Bureau of Statistics reports that a line of evergreens can reduce heat loss and winter fuel bills by up to 20%.