

# Energy Efficiency Tips

Here are some ways you can save energy during the fall and winter months.

## Prepare Your Heating System

- Have your furnace or heat pump serviced by a professional on a regular basis to make sure it operates at the optimum efficiency.
- Inspect ducts for broken joints, loose or damaged insulation, and air leaks. Repair as necessary or hire a qualified HVAC professional to test your duct system and fix any problems. Properly sealing ducts can improve heating and cooling system efficiency and decrease your electric bill.
- Make sure your heating registers and return vents are open and not obstructed by furniture or other items.
- If you have baseboard heaters, turn them off, then clean them with a vacuum cleaner. Make sure they are not obstructed by furniture or other items.
- Set your thermostat to 68°F or lower. You can save 1-3% on your heating energy use for each degree you reduce the average temperature in your home.
- Use a ceiling fan circulating clockwise during the winter to help distribute the warm air that collects near the ceiling. It also helps improve air filtration and creates a slight pressure to reduce drafts.

## Tighten Your Home and Improve Comfort

- Check for drafts around doors, windows, and outlets on exterior walls. Use caulking, weather stripping, foam gaskets, or other insulating measures to help eliminate drafts. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, drafts can waste 5% to 30% of your energy use.

**Winter Peak Power Demand is from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.**

Avoid using your clothes washer, clothes dryer, dishwasher or other electrical appliances during this time. This will help the City save on its wholesale power bill and keep electric rates low for everyone.

- Replace faulty door weather-stripping and adjust it to be airtight. Check the door latch for looseness, and adjust the strike plate to make the door latch tighter.
- Proper insulation is one of the best ways to save energy and make your home more comfortable. It also helps soundproof your home. Learn more at [energy.gov/energysaver/articles/where-insulate-home](http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/where-insulate-home).

## Get Smart About How You Use Energy

- Use the EPA's Home Energy Yardstick to conduct a simple online assessment about your home's energy use compared to similar homes. Go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) and search for Home Energy Yardstick.
- Measure your way to savings with an energy monitor, a device that lets you know electrical usage in real time. Some project your monthly bill, too. By knowing exactly how much each appliance or activity costs, you will see easy ways to make adjustments and reduce energy waste. Energy monitors can be borrowed from the Richland Public Library.



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## Low Interest Loans and Incentives

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient. Is it time to replace your inefficient heating and air conditioning system with a high efficiency heat pump or ductless heat pump? Do you need your ducts sealed or to upgrade your insulation or windows? Learn about the City's incentives and low-interest loan program by visiting [www.ci.richland.wa.us/EnergyServices](http://www.ci.richland.wa.us/EnergyServices) or calling 942-7431.