



Conserving Energy for the Future

Did You Know?

Replacing your light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ENERGY STAR qualified lights such as compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) can save more than \$65 a year in energy costs, provide high-quality light output, use 75-percent less energy, and last 6–10 times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs, saving money on energy bills and replacement costs. If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes.



Environmental protection begins in your own backyard

Energy Saving Tips for Your Home

Even if you own or rent an apartment, townhouse, or a home, you can make a big difference in conserving energy by following these simple tips:

- Remember to **turn off your lights** when leaving a room.



Turning off just one 60-watt incandescent bulb that would otherwise burn eight hours a day can save about \$15 per year!

- Considering purchasing a room air conditioner? **Consider an ENERGY STAR qualified model.** They use at least 10 percent less energy than standard models.
- If possible, **install a programmable thermostat** to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away



or sleeping. When it is used properly, a programmable thermostat with its four temperature settings can save up to \$150 a year in energy costs.

- Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters** when not in use (like your cell phone charger!). Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are done using equipment. Using a power strip for your computer and all peripheral equipment allows you to completely disconnect the power supply from the power source, eliminating standby power consumption.



- A ten minute shower can use less water than a full bath. With a new 2.5 gallon-per-minute (low-flow) shower head, a 10

-minute shower will use about 25 gallons of water, saving you five gallons of water over a typical bath. **A new showerhead also will save energy** — up to \$145 each year on electricity — beating out both the bath and an old-fashioned showerhead.



- Make sure all **vents are clear of furniture** so that air can circulate freely. If your home has radiators, place heat-resistant reflectors between radiators and walls. In the winter, this will help heat the room instead of the wall. During cold weather, take advantage of the sun's warmth by keeping drapes open during daylight hours. To keep out the heat of the summer sun, close window shades and drapes in warm weather.

(Continued on back)

Environmental protection begins in your own backyard

**ADEQ Helpline
(501) 682-0923**

Common Home Problems

High Energy Bills

High utility bills can often be traced to air leaks in your home's outer walls, inefficient windows and heating and cooling equipment, or poorly sealed and insulated ducts.

Mold, Mildew or Musty Odors

Water leaks or high humidity can lead to mold and mildew. This can cause wood rot, structural damage, peeling paint, and a variety of health issues.

Dust

Increased dust could be a sign that it is time to change your air filter or that your ductwork is not well sealed.

Peeling Paint

If you see peeling or cracking paint on your house's exterior, it could be a sign that you might have a humidity problem or the paint was applied to the home improperly.

Visit us online

www.adeg.state.ar.us

- Rinsing dirty dishes before loading your dishwasher uses a lot of water and energy. Most dishwashers today can thoroughly clean dishes that have had food scraped, rather than rinsed, off — the wash cycle and detergent take care of the rest. To make the most efficient use of your dishwasher's energy and water consumption, **run the dishwasher only when enough dirty dishes have accumulated** for a full load and use the air-dry option if available.
- Hot water heating accounts for about 90 percent of the energy your machine uses to wash clothes — only 10 percent goes to electricity used by the washer motor. Depending on the clothes and local water quality (hardness), many homeowners can effectively **do laundry exclusively with cold water**, using cold water laundry detergents. Switching to cold water can save the average household more than \$40 annually (with an electric



water heater) and more than \$30 annually (with a gas water heater). Washing full loads can save you more than 3,400 gallons of water each year.

- **Don't over dry your clothes.** If your dryer has a moisture sensor that automatically turns the machine off when clothes are done, use it to avoid over drying. Also, remember to clean the lint trap before every load which allows for more air flow. Dry full loads, or reduce drying time for small loads.



Buy and Drive Smart

Many of us choose a car, SUV, or pickup because of our lifestyle. It's important to choose wisely, because that vehicle is going to be what takes you to school, to work, or out shopping.

In addition to gas consumption, our vehicles are a major source of air emissions. Here are some tips and suggestions, which will help reduce the impact that your vehicle has on the environment:

- Be aware of your speed — obeying highway speed limits can save fuel, as well as prevent pollution.
- Avoid rapid accelerations and braking, which burn more fuel.
- When you aren't in traffic, turn off the engine rather than idle for more than 30 seconds.
- Your vehicle is designed to perform best when maintained. A poorly maintained vehicle can pollute more and be less fuel-efficient. Also, when possible, combine activities and errands into one trip.
- Take advantage of public transportation and carpooling.
- Gas fumes are not only harmful to you, but also to the environment. Topping off your tank beyond the automatic shutoff point will cause fuel spills as well as emit more toxic fumes into the air.

Thanks to these sources and websites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)

Energy Star (www.energystar.gov)