



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY PACKET



# INTRODUCTION

Thank you for downloading AM Conservation Group's Energy Efficiency Packet. In this packet, we have included useful resources to help provide ideas to reach your customers and educate them further regarding energy efficiency. Each of these materials is designed for your ease of use, provided in specific formats and instructions for implementing them toward a range of applications. This packet provides an assortment of tools that can help you reach the energy savings of your service territory.



Here are some easy steps your customers can take to be energy efficient, incentivizing them with potential savings while meeting your energy goals.

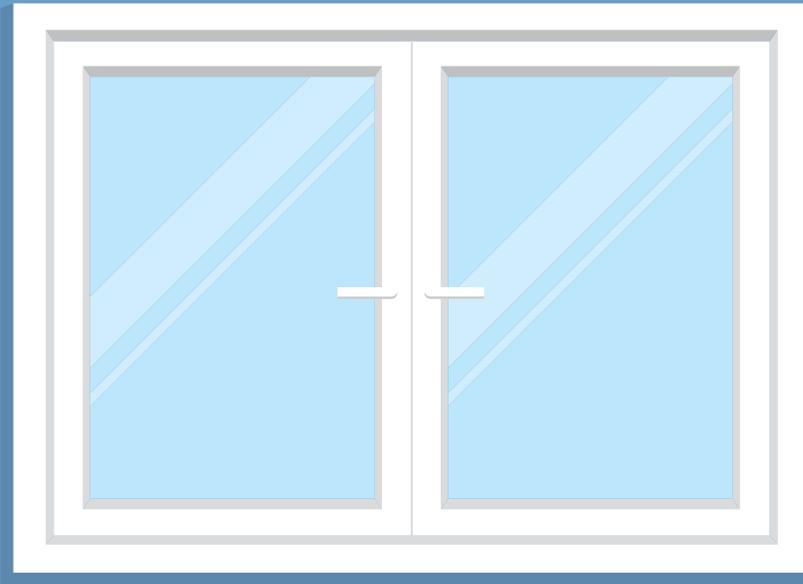


## HOW TO **SAVE ENERGY & REDUCE COSTS** *in the Summer Months*

The summer months bring both a cause for excitement as well as potential concern among consumers. On one hand, the good weather makes it possible to partake in all kinds of outdoor activities. On the other hand, extreme heat can put temperature control devices and programs into overdrive. Air conditioners, fans and central climate control can all be taxed to their limit, which can make a significant impact on your customers' energy bills.



## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR *Windows*

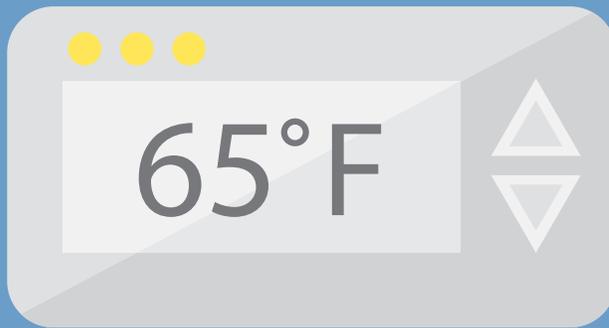


If your home is located in an area where the nights are much cooler than the daytime, use it to your full advantage. Turn off all cooling systems such as air conditioners and evaporative coolers, and open your windows during bedtime. Shutting these windows when you wake up will capture cool air, cutting down on the amount of air conditioner use during the day. Windows can also be utilized for maximum energy efficiency. You can install window coverings to block heat from entering your house or apartment through windows. Some window coverings require installation, such as awnings, which are capable of reducing solar heat in the summer by 65% - 77%. Interior blinds and shades allow you to control ventilation and light, and can lower your heat intake by up to 44%.

Other methods of optimizing your windows include adding draperies—especially those lined with white plastic backs—which can reduce heat by 33%. Lastly, high reflectivity films made of silver can greatly reduce heat by reflecting light, thus preventing heat from entering a room.



## USE YOUR *Thermostat* WISELY

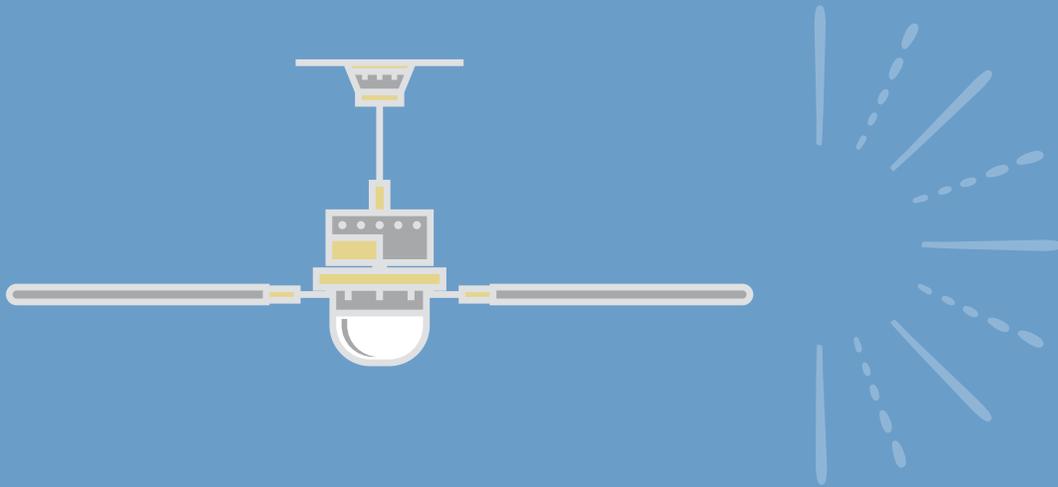


The thermostat is the easiest piece of technology to lose track of during the summer, especially if the heat becomes too unbearable to resist turning the temperature down. The best way to combat putting your thermostat into overdrive this summer is to set it as close to the outside temperature as possible while still remaining comfortable. An ideal summertime AC thermostat setting is 78°F. For every degree you raise your thermostat, you can save between 4% – 6% of energy!

Avoid a common mistake that consumes extreme energy: when turning on your AC, do not lower your thermostat setting. Lowering your thermostat when you turn on your AC does not cool your home faster and can easily result in unnecessary expenses on your energy bill. Remember how drastically each degree can impact the total runtime and cost of an AC system.



# MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR *Ventilation*



A simple way to cut down on your energy bill during the summer is to use fans and other methods of ventilation. A ceiling fan can be used along with an air conditioner to spread cool air, allowing your thermostat to be raised an addition 4°F. Additionally, fans can help remove excess heat and humidity after a shower by venting the warm air outside, which lowers the temperature of your home. The average ceiling fan only consumes about 75 watts. By comparison, your air conditioner easily consumes 3,000 - 6,000 watts, depending on its age and size.



## DO's and DON'Ts



### DO switch your light bulbs to LEDs

Traditional light bulbs make a huge impact on your energy usage and expenses. Instead, make the switch to LEDs. Their 25,000-hour lifespans can lead to savings of \$200 or more, and they consume far less energy than alternative choices.



### DO use a smart thermostat

Smart thermostats are ideal for preventing energy use when people aren't home. They're easy to program, update and control right from your phone. Raising a thermostat setting will save 1% energy for each degree raised, which can add up over time to create major savings.



### DO use ENERGY STAR® appliances and power strips

ENERGY STAR® is an organization established by the EPA in 1992, highlighting energy-efficient products and appliances including refrigerators, water heaters, and thermostats. They are guaranteed to use 10% to 50% less energy than products that do not have the organization's approval.



## DO's and DON'Ts



### **DON'T** overload your outlets

Smart plugs reduce energy use, eliminate wasteful standby power, and prevent overcharging and overheating. They allow consumers to save on their electric bills by protecting outlet overloading and allowing device share and grouping. Users can remotely control the smart plug right from their phones, with no home hub needed.



### **DON'T** hold on to secondhand fridges or freezers

Old appliances, especially those made before 1992 and missing the ENERGY STAR® label, are not energy-efficient.



### **DON'T** forget your filters

Air filters in ACs and furnaces can significantly impact ventilation and the efficiency of your temperature control devices. Regularly checking and cleaning these filters are an inexpensive way to get the most out of your ventilation and appliances.





## ENERGY-SAVING PRODUCTS



### Advanced Power Strips

Energy-saving smart power strips offer one of the best ways to conserve energy. Primarily used in home offices and entertainment centers, they can also be used for plugging in temperature control devices like ACs and fans in the summer. These strips lower the overtime use of these cooling devices by preventing gadgets drawing power after they've been turned off.

Although these power strips do not eliminate the overall energy usage of running AC units and fans in the summer, they can be very effective in lowering it. Consumers are encouraged to use them because they may also reduce their energy bills during high-demand months.



### Furnace and Air Filters

Air and furnace filters are heavily used in the summer months. During this time, they may clog up, slowing down air flow and forcing the system to work harder to cool a space. In the process of working harder, these appliances waste precious energy. Energy-saving filters collect particles and ensure that proper airflow is maintained more efficiently. Maintaining filters regularly is an easy fix for over-taxing the appliances.



## ENERGY-SAVING PRODUCTS



### Smart Thermostats

These thermostats are ideal energy-savers. Users can access them via cell phone, adjusting temperatures while they're out of the house. This ensures the thermostats are only in use when people are present, which preserves energy while still keeping the home adequately heated and cooled.



### Weatherstripping Tape

Weatherstripping tape is useful for sealing out drafts, which can help reduce heating loss in the winter and cooling loss in the summer. This tape is easy to install, beneficial year-round, and available in all popular sizes. AM Conservation Group stocks both open-cell and closed-cell weatherstripping tape for attaching to doors, windows, attic hatches, and air conditioners.



**Contact AM Conservation Group with any inquiries:**

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