

50 Ways to Conserve Energy & Lower Your Electric & Natural Gas Bills

Nevada law requires natural gas and electric utilities to implement conservation plans that include programs and incentives to encourage consumers to conserve energy. These plans must be approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN). Check with your natural gas and electric utilities to see which programs the companies may offer to encourage conservation, such as rebates for purchasing high-efficiency appliances and free energy audits for homes and businesses. But even without an incentive, there are a number of ways to save energy, and they all start with you!

IN GENERAL:


1. Turn off lights, appliances, computers, gaming systems, and phone chargers when not in use. Unplug when away for an extended time.
2. Subscribe to your electric utility's time-of-use rate and avoid energy use during on-peak hours.
3. Check your bill every month to track your energy usage.

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING:

4. Replace an electric furnace, boiler or heat pump with similar but more efficient equipment, or with a natural gas system if it has a lower operational cost.
5. Replace a natural gas furnace or boiler with a more efficient natural gas furnace or boiler.
6. Replace a central air conditioner with a more efficient air conditioner.
7. Install a programmable thermostat that reduces energy consumption in a heating or cooling system by switching the temperature automatically from one level to another.
8. Clean and adjust a gas or oil furnace to increase the efficiency of the combustion.
9. Regularly clean or replace air filters in heating and cooling systems.
10. Turn off the pilot light in a gas furnace during the summer.
11. Manually lower your furnace thermostat during the heating season to a maximum of 55 degrees during sleeping hours.
12. Limit the maximum setting for your furnace thermostat to 65 degrees during the heating season.
13. Reduce your furnace thermostat to 55 degrees when your home will be empty for 4 hours or longer in a heating season.
14. Set your air conditioning thermostat to 78 degrees or higher during the cooling season.
15. Raise your air conditioning thermostat to 90 degrees in the cooling season when no one is home.
16. Keep doors and windows closed when heating/ cooling units are operating.
17. Replace old space heaters with more efficient, automatic shutoff models.
18. Close closet doors and doors to unused rooms (if they don't have a vent) so your heating or cooling system won't waste energy heating or cooling a room that no one is using.
19. Utilize ceiling fans to spread warm/cold air around the home. Shut off fans if no one is around.

INSULATION & CAULKING

20. Use caulking to fill small gaps around the fixed joints of window and door frames, under baseboards inside the building; in exterior walls at electric outlets; around pipes and wires entering the building; or around dryer vents and exhaust fans in exterior walls.
21. Use weather stripping to reduce the passage of air and moisture over or in movable window and door joints.
22. Caulk any leak in a heating or cooling duct.
23. Insulate or increase insulation between the conditioned area of a building and an unconditioned attic, unconditioned areas of the building or the outside.
24. Insulate or increase insulation between the first conditioned level of the building and an unconditioned basement, crawl space or open area beneath the building.
25. Insulate or increase existing insulation on the surface of a heating or cooling duct in an unconditioned area of the building.
26. Insulate or increase existing insulation on the exterior surface of the casing of a water heater.
27. Install insulation or other pliable materials in gaps around pipes, ducts, fans or other equipment which enters the attic or basement from a heated space.
28. Plug any holes around a fireplace damper with fireproof material.
29. Add insulation to an attic or basement door.
30. Install insulated skirting to enclose the space between a mobile home and the ground.



ENERGY CONSERVATION

The PUCN oversees the administration of conservation plans established by investor-owned natural gas and electric utilities, including rebates and other programs that encourage consumers to conserve. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 704.800 through 704.876 outline the measures electric and natural utilities must include in their conservation plans to encourage conservation.

NORTHERN NEVADA

1150 E. Williams St., Carson City, NV 89701

Ph: (775) 684-6101 | Fax: (775) 684-6110

Consumer Complaints: (775) 684-6100

puc.nv.gov

SOUTHERN NEVADA

9075 W. Diablo Dr., #250, Las Vegas, NV 89148

Ph: (702) 486-7210 | Fax: (702) 486-7206

Consumer Complaints: (702) 486-2600

WATER HEATING:

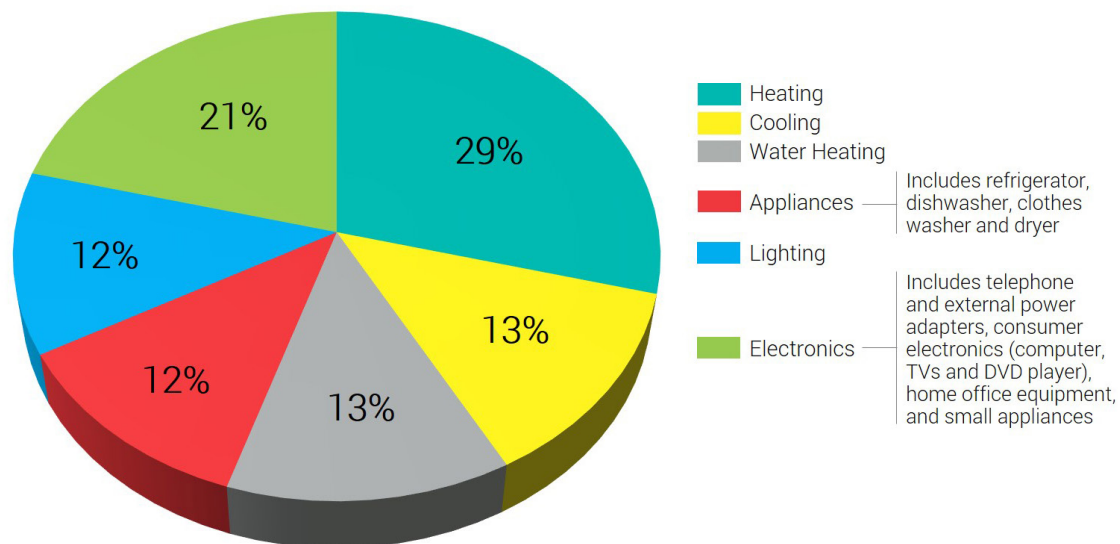
31. Replace an electric water heater with a gas water heater.
32. Use an insulating cover on a heated swimming pool during the night.
33. Install devices which automatically control the filtering or heating system used for a swimming pool.
34. Install a solar water heating system or photovoltaic panels.
35. Place a device on a showerhead or faucet to limit the maximum flow to 2.5 gallons per minute, or replace existing showerheads or faucets with those having built-in provisions for limiting the maximum flow to 2.5 gallons per minute.
36. Set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit unless a higher setting is required for proper operation of a dishwasher.
37. Reduce the use of heated water for washing clothes.
38. Turn an electric water heater off or a gas water heater to "pilot" when your home will be vacant for 2 days or longer.
39. Tighten or plug any leaky joints in hot water or steam pipes.
40. Replace washers in leaky water valves.

APPLIANCES:

41. When buying appliances, select those that have received the Energy Star label or otherwise use energy efficiently.
42. Keep your freezer as full as possible. Use containers with water to fill in empty spaces.
43. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs or reduce the wattage ratings of incandescent light bulbs.
44. Wash small amounts of dishes by hand. If you have a dishwasher, fill it up! It uses the same amount of energy to wash six dishes as it does to wash twenty.

Where Does My Money Go?

Annual Energy Bill for a typical Single Family Home is \$2,060



Source: Typical House Factoid Memo. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. April 2013.

WINDOWS & WINDOW COVERINGS

45. Install storm windows.
46. Use window tinting to prevent heat loss or gain.
47. Install insulated shutters and shades on the inside or outside of your windows to prevent heat loss or gain.
48. Use shades or drapes to block sunlight from entering a building in the cooling season.
49. Use shades or drapes to allow sunlight to enter a building during the heating season.
50. Use shades or drapes to cover windows tightly at night during the heating season.

MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about conservation incentives or programs your electric or gas utility may have, contact the utility by phone or visit the utility's website. Contact information for the utility is listed on your monthly bill.