

Save Money on Energy Bills

1. Turn down your thermostat down to 68 degrees in the winter; dress warmly. Wearing more jumpers, socks and slippers around the house, and putting an extra blanket on the bed means you won't be tempted to turn the heating up.
2. Batch cook. If you're going to use the oven, cook a few meals at a time to get the most out of having your oven on and hot, especially if lunch-prepping for the week ahead is your kind of thing.
3. Heat your home with cooking. Leave the oven door open after cooking to let the heat warm your kitchen.
4. Let the dishwasher do the dirty work. Avoid pre-rinsing the dishes in hot water. Save water and energy by just scraping the dishes before they go in.
5. Make things easy for your fridge and freezer. Keeping them full means they don't have to work as hard and therefore they use less energy. Empty space in your fridge or freezer wastes not only space but energy too.
6. Use the right ring for the right thing. If your stove has a small ring, use a small pan. You might only be heating up a small meal and doing so in a big pan wastes a lot of energy. Conversely, if you try and heat a large pan on the small ring you're more likely to end up heating for longer than saving any money or energy.
7. Shrink your bills, not your clothes. USE COLD WATER.
8. Hang up your laundry. Air-dry your laundry rather than tumbledrying it, particularly if the weather is warm or windy.
9. Save yourself ironing time. Take your clothes out of the dryer before they're completely dry - they'll iron much quicker and you'll use less energy on your drier.
10. Switch it off and save. Switch it off at the wall when your appliances and devices aren't in use. Don't just leave it on **standby**: it may be easier but it's also a guaranteed way to waste energy compared to turning things off at the socket.
11. Get the kids involved. Play energy-saving games with your kids to teach them the importance of switching off to save energy.
12. Invest in a smart thermostat — or at the very least, a programmable one.
15. Lower your water heater to 120 degrees.

16. Air dry dishes.
17. Turn off power strips when appliances are not in use.
18. Insulate heating ducts under the house.
19. Use low-slow shower heads.
20. Use LED light bulbs.
21. Turn off the lights, TV, and all other electrical appliances when they are not being used.
22. Get a programmable thermostat and set it at 68 degrees in winter and 76 degrees in summer.
23. Seal air leaks with caulk around windows and doors, and use child-protective plugs in sockets.
24. Don't block radiators.
25. Raise temperatures slowly on thermostats, so the heat strip is not engaged.
26. Wrap an insulating blanket around the hot water heater.
27. Use Energy Star appliances.
28. Use microwaves or toaster ovens to heat up leftovers instead of the oven.
29. NEVER USE THE OVEN TO HEAT THE HOUSE!
30. In winter, open curtains to let the sun in. In summer, close the curtains to keep the sun out. Walmart has cheap energy-efficient drapes that can lower your bills substantially. Use them with LED bulbs because they will shut out light, as well.
31. In winter, leave oven door open after cooking to heat house; in summer keep the hot air inside the oven.
32. Insulate water pipes under the house.
33. Take short showers.

34. Clean the dryer vent of all lint after every use.

35. Add aerators to faucets to save on water.

These tips may not be available now, but it is worth a try. Call GA Power to see if they know how to apply for these grants. You may also want to try calling the UGA Extension Agency for this and other energy-saving ideas.

36. Get free cavity wall insulation. There are now government-backed full and partial grants available to help you pay for insulation if your home has cavity walls.

37. Get free loft insulation. Because heat rises, as much as 25% of the heat in your house could be disappearing into your loft space. What's more, even older properties that already have insulation in place may not have the recommended levels, particularly if it was installed in the 1970s or 1980s.

38. Get free solar panels. Having solar panels installed on your house could save you as much as a third on your electricity bills.

39. Apply for an energy-saving grant. There are plenty of energy-saving grants available to help with the cost of home improvements.