



Tips,
Tools and
Resources for
Individuals

Operation Energy SaveSM

Operation Energy Save is designed so that individuals, organizations and community groups can help older friends and neighbors save money on energy costs. Your involvement will make a difference to people you care about.

INCLUDED IN THIS KIT:

- 1 How to Help Your Friends and Neighbors Save Energy**
- 2 Lend-A-Hand Checklist**
- 3 Easy Tips for Everyday Living**
- 4 DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program**



How to Help Your Friends and Neighbors Save Energy

Operation Energy Save was created for individuals and community groups to help friends, family and neighbors conserve energy by sharing a checklist of tips that have been proven to reduce energy costs.

1. Choose three friends and neighbors you plan to assist:
(Of course you can help as many as you like, but three is a great starting point.)

A.

B.

C.

2. Schedule a quick energy-saving walk-through of their home(s) and use the Lend-A-Hand Checklist.
3. Leave a copy of the “Operation Energy Save: Easy Tips for Everyday Living” tip sheet so they have a list of more ways to save on energy costs every day.
4. Remember, you can always print more copies; the files are at CreateTheGood.org/EnergySave.
5. Visit CreateTheGood.org to let us know how this project worked for you and offer suggestions for future ideas.



Lend-A-Hand Checklist

As you know, energy costs continue to rise. But you can do something to help others. Operation Energy Save was created for you to help friends, family and neighbors conserve energy by sharing a checklist of tips proven to reduce energy costs. That way, those you care about can save money and stay warm.

- Replace light bulbs with an ENERGY STAR–qualified compact fluorescent light bulb. They use 75 percent less energy and last about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb.
- Close and lock all windows and close the heat vents and the doors in rooms that aren't being used.
- Shut fireplace dampers to prevent heated air from going up the chimney when you're not using the fireplace. Be sure all embers are out.
- Clean registers, baseboard heaters and radiators and be sure that they're not blocked by curtains, furniture or carpeting.
- Lower the temperature on the water heater to 120 degrees. Reducing the temperature by 20 degrees can save you nearly \$50 a year.
- Replace or clean furnace air filters. A clogged, dirty filter forces your furnace to work harder. A clean filter can save you 10 percent on your bill.*
- Remove window air conditioning units when the summer is over to prevent heat from escaping. If the unit can't be moved, cover it to prevent drafts.
- Use expanding foam (available in spray cans) to seal the gaps around pipes that connect to the house from the outside.
- Install weather stripping or caulk around doors and windows and place foam gaskets behind outlet plate covers on exterior walls. If there's a large gap at the bottom of an exterior door, install a door sweep.*
- Seal and insulate ducts and joints with a nonhardening sealant. Ducts running through unfinished spaces (attics, crawl spaces and garages) that aren't properly sealed and insulated can add 25 percent to your home's heating bill.*

*Professional assistance may be required to perform this task.



Easy Tips for Everyday Living

While you can't control rising energy costs, you can lower your energy bill by following these simple and proven tips in your home.

- 1. Follow the 10-10 Rule.** Lowering your thermostat in the winter by 10 percent (like from 74° to 67°) for 8 hours can shave 10 percent off your heating bill. Try it at night and use extra blankets when sleeping.
- 2. Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when you have a full load.** Use the cold water setting when possible. And always clean the clothes dryer's lint filter after every load.
- 3. Keep the lights off in unoccupied rooms.**
- 4. Turn off kitchen and bathroom ventilating fans** when you're done. If left on for an hour, they can suck all the heat out of the house.
- 5. During the winter, open drapes, blinds or shades on windows facing the sun** to warm your rooms. At night, cover the windows for better insulation. Also keep the windows clean so they can let in the maximum amount of light and heat.
- 6. Make sure none of your furniture is blocking a heat register.** To feel warmer, move furniture away from cold exterior walls and windows.
- 7. Contact your local utility company** to ask about a home energy audit. Costs vary, but some companies offer free audits.
- 8. Call your local department of social services** to ask if they can help with your home energy expenses.



Want to permanently lower your energy bills?

You can lower your energy bills by preventing heating and air conditioning from escaping through cracks and gaps around doors and windows.



And, thanks to the 2009 Stimulus package, new weatherization assistance money may be available in your community! *The Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program* may be what you need.

What is the weatherization assistance program?

Sponsored and run by the U.S. Department of Energy, if you are eligible for the program, then a professionally trained crew would come into your home to determine the best ways to save you the most on heating and cooling costs. Depending on what you need and what you are eligible to receive, they could install insulation, seal ducts, tune and repair heating and cooling systems, and if indicated, replace them – all free of charge.



Whether you own or rent, you may be eligible for up to \$6500 in free weatherization services.

To find out if you are eligible, visit the Department of Energy's website to find your local weatherization office at www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization.

