

# NO COST AND LOW COST WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILL

from your

## City of Dover



### HEATING

Lower heating temperatures. Experiment by changing the temperature one to two degrees a week until you find a comfortable temperature.

Keep shades or blinds open during the day to let sunlight and solar heat in. Close drapes at night for extra insulation in keeping the cold out.

Close off any unused rooms. Make sure they don't get cold enough that pipes would freeze or for plaster to crack.

Turn your thermostat down at bedtime. Installing an automatic set-back thermostat may be an option.

Check your thermostat for accuracy.

Check your heat ducts for leakage.

Check your heat registers. Is the heat being directed behind curtains or drapes or is the heat being directed into the room? Move any obstructions (chairs, tables, etc.) that may block the flow of heated air.

Replace heating filters often. Dirty filters will make your heater run longer.

Installing attic and wall insulation in addition to weatherstripping and caulking in the home saves energy.

## COOLING

In hot weather, use a fan to increase air flow.

Let outside breezes in. Cut shrubs, etc. that would block the breeze.

Exhaust fans in the window can push warm air out and pull cool air in.

Since hot air rises, open the upper part of double hung sash windows. Open the upper vents in your attic.

Air conditioning units that draw fresh, warm outside air use more electricity than units re-cooling the air inside. Try closing the fresh air intake for a while.

Raise cooling temperatures. As with the heat, experiment by raising the temperature one to two degrees a week until you find a comfortable temperature.

Replace and/or clean filters.

Close off unused rooms.

Keep shades, blinds, curtains, and drapes closed to keep heat out when the air conditioner is on.

Check duct work for leakage.

Make sure the cold air is directed into the room and not behind drapes or obstructed by furniture.

## SIMPLE STEPS THAT SAVE WATER

**Showers:** Keep showers short and use a water-saving showerhead. Older showers use six to eight gallons per minute; with a new shower head or a flow-restrictor device (you can buy both in a hardware store and install them yourself), you use two and a half to three gallons per minute.

**Sinks:** Use six gallons of water per minute. With an aerator (also found in hardware

stores), they use only two to three gallons per minute.

**Tubs:** To fill a tub takes 36 gallons of water. Filling the tub only a few inches uses ten gallons.

**Toilets:** Flushing a toilet uses five to seven gallons of water. If you keep a plastic bottle filled with water inside the tank, each flush uses only four gallons.

**Shaving and washing hands: Don't let** water run unnecessarily while shaving or washing. If you keep water running, you can use two to five gallons of water. A basinful of water uses only one gallon.

**Brushing teeth:** With running water, you use two to three gallons of water. Wetting the brush and then rinsing at the end uses only one-half gallon.

**Washing dishes:** Running the tap when washing dishes by hand uses 10 to 30 gallons. Using a dish pan uses five gallons.

**Dishwashers and clothes washers:** Do not use unless they are completely full. A standard-size dishwasher on normal cycle uses 10.87 gallons of water; a 2.4 cubic-foot clothes washer uses from 24.4 to 42.5 gallons, depending on water level selected.

**Faucet leaks:** Steady dripping can waste 15 to 20 gallons of water a day.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Check the temperature on the water heater. If you have to mix cold water with the hot to be able to put your hand in the water, the temperature may be set too high. If you have an automatic dishwasher, check the manufacturer's recommendations for water temperature.

Insulate hot water pipes and water heaters.

Wash clothes in cold water.

Hang clothes outside on nice days.

An instant-on television uses energy all the time.

Install ceiling fans to circulate hot or cold air.

The new compact fluorescent (lower wattage) light bulbs may be an option. The bulbs cut the energy used by approximately 75 percent.

When purchasing any new appliance, purchase the most energy efficient model. Turn lights and appliances off when not in use.

## **COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS**

Since the price of compact fluorescent bulbs has dropped drastically, the saving of energy is immediate. In most cases, the cost of the compact fluorescent bulb is less than the cost of the equal amount of incandescent bulbs.

A 75-watt incandescent bulb (a regular household bulb) costs about \$.50 per bulb and has an average life of 750 hours. The average physical light output is 1180 lumens. Thirteen incandescent bulbs would have a life of 9,750 hours at a cost of \$6.50.

A 20-watt compact fluorescent (energy saving bulb) now has an average cost between \$4 to \$6 per bulb. They have an average life of 10,000 hours with the physical light output of 1200 lumens.

The example below is based on a 75-watt incandescent bulb compared to a 20-watt compact fluorescent bulb for 30 days. Savings are based on .09 per kWh rate.

<b>Number of hours in use per day</b>	<b>75 watt bulb kWh used per month</b>	<b>20 watt bulb kWh used per month</b>	<b>\$ amount saved per month per bulb</b>	<b>\$ amount saved per year per bulb</b>
<b>6 hours</b>	<b>13.5 kWh</b>	<b>3.6 kWh</b>	<b>\$ .89</b>	<b>\$10.69</b>
<b>8 hours</b>	<b>18 kWh</b>	<b>4.8 kWh</b>	<b>\$1.19</b>	<b>\$14.26</b>
<b>10 hours</b>	<b>22.5 kWh</b>	<b>6 kWh</b>	<b>\$1.49</b>	<b>\$17.82</b>
<b>12 hours</b>	<b>27 kWh</b>	<b>7.2 kWh</b>	<b>\$1.78</b>	<b>\$21.38</b>
<b>14 hours</b>	<b>31.5 kWh</b>	<b>8.4 kWh</b>	<b>\$2.08</b>	<b>\$24.95</b>
<b>20 hours</b>	<b>45 kWh</b>	<b>12 kWh</b>	<b>\$2.97</b>	<b>\$35.64</b>
<b>24 hours</b>	<b>54 kWh</b>	<b>14.4 kWh</b>	<b>\$3.56</b>	<b>\$42.77</b>