

Want to help clean up the air you breathe?

Concerned about climate change?

Want to save yourself some money?

Here are some simple things you can do!

In the winter:

- Set your manual thermostat to 65 during the day and to 60 before leaving the house in the morning and before going bed or replace your thermostat with an “Energy Star” rated programmable thermostat. Potential annual savings: \$170
- Open window shades and curtains on sunny days
- Have your furnace inspected regularly and change filters monthly. Potential annual savings: \$60

In the summer:

- Close south and west-facing window shades and curtains on hot summer days.

- Try using a box fan instead of an air conditioner
- If you have air conditioning, set your thermostat to 76
- Air dry clothes on a clothesline.
- Water your lawn early in the morning, before 7 a.m.
- Plant trees to shade your house and protect it from wind

Year around:

- Look to see if your attic is properly insulated and if not, add or replace insulation
- Fill gaps around baseboards, plumbing fixtures, doors and windows with inexpensive supplies from store. Potential annual savings: \$140
- Install low-flow shower heads and tap aerators. Potential annual savings: \$70
- Wait until you get a full load of clothes before washing, and use the cold water setting. Potential annual savings: \$100
- Clean lint trap on dryer after every load. Potential annual savings: \$25
- Wait until your dishwasher is full before running and eliminate the dry cycle. Potential annual savings: \$25

- When you replace appliances or windows, purchase those with an “Energy Star” rating
- Replace burned-out light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Potential annual savings for 20 bulbs: \$50-100
- Plug electronic equipment like televisions and DVD players into a power strip and turn it off when not in use
- Keep your car tuned up and the tires properly inflated. Potential annual savings: \$130
- On the interstate, set your cruise control to 5 mph below the speed limit. Potential annual savings: \$25
- When you replace your vehicle, consider buying one that gets more than 30 miles per gallon
- Walk, bike or take the bus when possible
- Consolidate your errands and take the most efficient route

And lastly, limit your purchases to things you will really use, reuse items whenever possible, and recycle them when you no longer have a need for them