Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

Keep windows and doors closed when cooling and heating equipment is operating.

Make sure you have the proper R-value of insulation in your walls, floor and ceilings.

Be sure you have no air leakage around doors and windows; if so caulk and insulate.

Make sure your heat pump doesn't become a "catch-all" for objects in the yard which can block the fan and lower efficiency.

Keep the coils of your unit clean.

Replacing filters regularly (each month) on units will increase the unit's efficiency.

Have your heating & cooling equipment serviced before each season.

Proper attic ventilation is important. Check with your local building supply for proper amount.

A PC requires 300 - 500 watts of energy; three PC's left running continuously for a day will consume 7.2 - 12 kilowatt-hours of energy.

Every degree a thermostat is changed from 68 degrees for heating and 78 degrees for cooling can change electrical costs by 3% to 5%.

Water heating accounts for about 13% to 14% of home electrical usage. Recommended setting: 110 degrees, unless there is a dishwasher.

If you have an older water heater in an unconditioned area (garage) an insulating blanket will help the unit retain heat and operate more efficiently.

Save hot water: take showers (and limit them to 5 minutes) instead of baths. Replacing existing shower heads with water-saving models can save hot water usage by 50%.

Cover hot-water pipes with insulation where they run through unheated basements, attics and crawl spaces.
Close chimney damper when the fireplace is not in use to prevent heating and cooling loss.

Save energy by cooking several dishes at once in the oven, only preheating if necessary. Cover the pots and use the microwave when possible.

Arrange furniture to allow free air flow from ducts and vents. Use drapes to block drafts.

Keep the refrigerator and freezer condenser coils clean for greater efficiency.

Install insulation gaskets behind the plates of electrical outlets on outside walls to prevent cold air from entering during winter.

Replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent can help reduce energy costs by as much as 75% for each fixture, while providing the same amount of light output. Note: This is most economical in areas where lighting is utilized several hours at a time every day.

Changing from hot to cold water for washing clothes will provide a savings in energy costs.

Locate thermostats on inside walls to provide even and economical heating and cooling.

A half-empty refrigerator or freezer uses more energy, because air is harder to keep cold than chilled foods and liquids. Not enough food? Fill in spaces with empty boxes, leaving space for air circulation.

Load washing machines to capacity (but don't overload). A half-load wastes hot water and energy.

Frost buildup of more than ¼" in a freezer causes cooling units to work harder...using more energy and wearing out faster.

If you heat with oil or natural gas, lower your thermostat a few degrees if everyone is out of the house for more than 4 hours. HOWEVER, if you have a heat pump, it is best to leave the unit set on 68 degrees. Heat pumps work more efficiently when left on one setting.