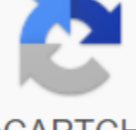


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With much of the nation staying inside and working from home, a surge in our electricity bills is almost inevitable. Being at home all day means we watch more TV, keeping our lights on, and shooting our furnaces much more than we would if everyone were at work or at school. To reduce the amount you spend on electricity, we've put together a useful guide that covers strategies large and small to make heating, lighting and powering your home cheaper and more efficient. Before we cover some of the most active involved methods, there are some obvious ones that you should absolutely use in your efforts to reduce your power bill, but simple enough, they don't require complete records. We say things like: making sure your vents are open when you try to heat (or cool) your house by turning off the lights in rooms you don't use disabling chargers and electronic devices when you don't use closing doors to help regulate room temperatures by opening shades/blinds during the day, and closing them at night While it's little strategy everyone's heard before, they don't require too much effort, and energy savings can add quickly. Instead of the above strategies, we like to focus on methods that may not be so obvious, but this will save you a good chunk of change. We divided them into three levels of difficulty: lightweight, intermediate and advanced. Obviously, the higher the complexity, the more time and effort you will need to invest, but their winnings are higher. However, integrating any of these changes, large or small, will help bring down your electricity bill and save money. Easy Turn Down Heat may seem like it falls into the obvious category, but when it comes to turning down heat, it's all about timing. If you leave home for a quick workout or taking your dog for a long walk, giving up the thermostat when no one is home to enjoy the temperature just makes sense. However, there is also a particularly long period of time spent at home when you have to be turning the thermostat down. Some reports say that sleeping in a cooler room is better for you than sleeping in a warm one. Not only that, but you'll save money by not heating your house all night. Of course, this is not to say that you should spend the night freezing, since the health benefits apply only to the air temperature, not under the lids. So bundle under a few extra blankets, and set aside firmly knowing that you're saving a few dollars. Hack your washing energy and water used when washing dishes and cleaning clothes make up a significant portion of your monthly energy expenditure, but there are a few easy ways to make getting clean cheaper. Washing clothes in cold water, which For colorful clothing in any case, will save a ton of electricity. It won't change anything about how you wash; Wash it. just click the other button. Similarly, taking a faster, cooler shower will also reduce your heat (and water) bill. When it comes to utensils, use less heat. It's the same as washing clothes: You don't need the heat to be as high as you think. Yes, hot water is important, especially for disinfecting dishes. However, dishwashers have different settings for a reason; The manufacturer will not add settings that have made washing dishes unsafe. When it comes to drying clothes, the most important thing is that you do not overload the dryer. While it may seem quicker to just squish everything you have in the dryer, if the clothes have no room to move, they don't dry properly. This leads to strangely smelling clothes and the dryer running more than it should be to dry everything. Just make two smaller loads with less heat. Of course, you can always avoid the dryer completely and instead hang dry clothes. To cool your water heater you can also go straight to the source to change the temperature of your washes: your water heater. Giving up a water heater is an easy fix, but it requires some research in the first place. Most water heaters are installed to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, but in most cases it is safe to reduce this temperature to 130 or 120 degrees Fahrenheit. It's safe for most people, but if you have a respiratory disease or a weakened immune system, it may be best to stick to 140 degrees Fahrenheit as Legionella bacteria can survive at lower temperatures than this. Again, it's safe for most people, but it's still worth keeping in mind. Also, if your dishwasher doesn't have a heat boost, then keep the pace at 140 degrees Fahrenheit to make sure your dishes come out completely disinfected. These are simple and practical changes that will help save money every month on your utility bill. However, there are many more things you can do to increase those savings. Intermediate minor insulation content Although the insulation of your home is important, the entire overhaul of its insulation is difficult and time consuming - not to mention expensive. Instead, there are some small changes and content you can use to close gaps in isolation. First, wrap the pipes with hot water. To prevent heat radiation, and therefore lost, wrap the hot water pipes in a simple insulation pipe. Another major source of wasted energy is heat leakage. The small holes and holes release heat (or cool air) you are trying to fill your home, which in turn makes your heating/cooling appliances work harder. Apply extension seals, and/or weather stripping for any gaps or holes around the window, door frames, and other holes in your home. The hardware store will have a weather stripping that has a sticky back, so you can just cut it down to size and stick it under whatever can be leaked. Update Lighting Buy LED or CFL CFL Lamp. Although a little more expensive upfront than those old incandescent bulbs, these new bulbs will last you much longer. They are also safer because they use less energy and use it more efficiently, meaning that less heat is produced. We understand how replacing light in your home can be a chore: There are great upfront costs, it can be tedious, and some don't like the bright quality light of LEDs and CFLs. However, you quickly make up the initial cost and then some, considering how much you'll save on replacements and on your monthly energy bill. You may also want to consider upgrading some of your regular bulbs to smart light bulbs, or installing smart switches to control sections of your home's lighting. With brands like Kasa and Wyze, you can turn the lights on and off, adjust the brightness, and control the energy efficiency of your fixtures with an easy-to-use app. Integrating these kits with popular voice assistants like Amazon's Alexa, Google Home, and Apple's HomeKit adds voice commands to the mix. Having fallen apart on the couch, but forgot to turn off the lights upstairs? Just tell your living room Echo Dot to turn off the lights upstairs and your second floor lamp will turn off. Becoming a Heat Miser Teerawattanakul/EyeEm Perhaps one of the best things to do is double check that your food counter reading corresponds to what the power company charges. While it's not all that common, there's always a chance that you overpay, especially if your account is based on settlement use. Simply make a note about meter readings for your home or home every one to three months, and report the use of the power supply if there are discrepancies. Advanced Get Efficient barbar760 One of the largest, if not the largest, source of the high energy bill is inefficiency. Inefficient insulation, inefficient appliances, inefficient heating, inefficient lighting - all of them are the main sources of your energy expenditure. While the previous two sections covered methods of addressing minor deficiencies, they are mostly solutions to the symptoms of larger problems. The first way to deal with inefficiency is to install a programmable thermostat. It will take guesswork and tedium from adjusting the temperature in your home as you will be able to create settings for a certain time, ensuring your home stays comfortable when you're there, but also energy efficient when you're not. Popular smart thermostats, such as Google Nest and Ecobee, put thermostat controls right in your hands. Using only the phone and smart thermostat app, you can raise and lower the temperature, set schedules and procedures for the thermostat to follow, and monitor on the go. Owns Echo Dynamics Google Home? Add skills to your smart thermostat and then monitor and customize the thermostat settings with simple voice commands like What This is? And lift the thermostat by 2 degrees. Next, replace the devices with Energy Star-certified electronics. This is especially important for older devices because, unsurprisingly, they are much less effective than new models. If possible, choose high efficiency (HE) laundry machines and dryers. They clean just as well (if not better) than regular washers, but use less water and are designed to work with he detergents as well. The appliances are not the only things that can be updated, as there is a high efficiency model for almost everything. Toilets, shower heads, windows and doors can be replaced by high efficiency models, saving money not only on your electricity bill, but in some cases your water bill as well. Although the previous page mentioned insulation, a complete overhaul of insulation is a much bigger task, but one that will have a much bigger impact on your electricity bill. This is especially important for older homes. Identify places with out-of-date materials or places that have been poorly insulated (or not at all) and add as needed. Check Energy.gov as a guide to safe and easy-to-follow instructions on adding insulation to your home. Go Sustainable Manfredxy It's One Thing to Be Effective; it's another to be sustainable. It can be complicated and expensive, but switching your home to solar power, even only partially, can save you tons of cash. It can even make you money by allowing you to sell energy back to the energy company. Finally, while we're mostly concerned with electricity use and electricity bills here, it's worth a brief discussion of the water. There have been some mentions of ways to conserve water, but one of the best to date is to install your own irrigation system. Much like with solar panels, upfront costs are high and it will probably take days or weeks worth of work to complete, but the savings will be worth it in the end. Editors' recommendations

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