

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

Here is a list of little things that can make a big difference.

Lower the thermostat:

Each degree saves 2-3% on your heating bill. Set the temperature from **68-70 degrees** when people are home, and **60-62 when no one is home** for 3-4 hours or more. Wear a sweater if it feels chilly.

Clear the clutter:

Clear clutter from around heaters so the heat can circulate better and also move furniture to warmer areas of your home to keep you more comfortable without having to turn up the heat.

Flip all the switches:

Only turn things on when they are being used otherwise turn them off. **By turning off a laptop computer every night, you can save \$20 a year.** Using a power strip can save even more money since appliances still pull electricity even when they are off.



Change your light bulbs:

When your light bulbs die, replace them with **CFLs**. They last longer and use less electricity. They are usually on sale at local hardware stores and other retail places. They usually **cost about 99 cents**.

Open and close the shades:

On sunny days, the blinds and curtains should be opened to let in the sun's free heat. Thick curtains are the best to **keep your heat and your dollars from escaping** out of the window at night (blankets can be used on really leaky windows).

Stop the leaks:

Block any air leaks, by using door stoppers or a DIY project involving some caulk and weather-stripping, which can do the trick for minor leaks around windows and doors.

Reflect heat using aluminum panels:

These can be found at local hardware stores (or made, but beware of fire hazards!). When placed behind and under heating devices they re-

flect the heat out into the room, increasing the effectiveness of the heating system.

Check insulation:

Replacing doors with insulated ones and installing more energy efficient windows is a good place to start. Weatherization Assistance can help with these projects.

Apply now!

Attend a Button Up VT workshop

These are local workshops given during the evening by energy auditors. They are geared towards educating homeowners on their home's energy efficiency and to teach how to do small DIY projects (for example: fixing air leaks with caulk and weather stripping). A list of these workshops is available at www.encyvermont.org

Replace things as they need it

You don't have to do all of these things at one time. That would be overwhelming and impossible. Space them out over time, prioritize your projects.

