

REDUCING ENERGY USE

ONE TIME ACTIONS

- Set water heater to 120°F
If your water heater has a knob, find the ▲ icon
- Set fridge temp to 36-39°F
If your knob has numbers, choose the middle range. The higher the number, the colder the fridge
- Turn electronics to sleep mode
Find this in the settings menus of TVs, computer, etc.

EASY EVERYDAY ACTIONS

- Adjust thermostat when away & asleep
- Wash clothes in cold water
Detergent will kill germs & viruses, even in cold water
- Unplug appliances when not in use
Especially anything with a display/clock.

WHAT USES ENERGY IN YOUR HOME?



26% Electronics, Appliances, & Lighting

Major appliances in this group include fridges, dishwashers, washers and dryers, and lighting. TVs, computers, and game consoles also can use a lot of energy.



19% Water Heating

You pay for water twice – once for water and again to heat it for showers, dish, and clothes washing. Limit hot water use and save more!



55% Heating & Cooling

Over half of your total energy bill goes to heating and cooling your home each year. You can make the largest impact on your bill by not over-heating or over-cooling your home. Turn down the thermostat when away or asleep and use clothing and window coverings to keep warm in the winter. Use ceiling fans and close the shades during summer days to keep your home cool.

WHY SAVE ENERGY?

Reduce air pollution and improve community health!



Stop throwing away money on large energy bills!





Help the environment & save resources!





UNDERSTANDING YOUR ENERGY BILL



Step 1: Determine what kind of energy your appliances use

Appliance	 Gas	 Electric	How Do I Know?
Furnace			Gas appliances have pilot lights and extra venting. Check the exterior of your home for vents and your furnace and water heater for pilot lights. Gas stoves have blue flames that click before lighting.
Stove			
Water Heater			
Dryer			




Step 2: Look at the gas/electricity breakdown

-  Natural gas is measured in therms. There is typically one rate charged per therm.
-  Electricity is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh).
 - ◇ Rates per kWh may increase in summer when demand is higher due to A/C use.
 - ◇ Some utilities have tiered electric rates or rates based on time of electric use.
 - ◇ Make sure you understand your utility rate structure to control your spending!



Step 3: Understand monthly trends

-  Home heating causes the largest changes in energy use month-to-month.
 - ◇ Gas use goes up in the winter if you have gas heating.
 - ◇ Electricity use goes up in the summer if you use air conditioning.
-  Compare average temperature from the same month last year to current bill to see how your energy saving actions may be lowering your bill over time.
 - ◇ Most energy bills will contain graphs with this info.

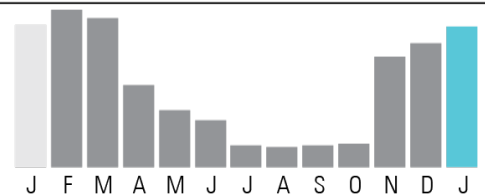
Step 4: Track usage over time

-  Take one-time and everyday energy-saving actions.
-  Check your bill compared to last year to see your savings.
-  Account for monthly temperatures and other factors that might affect energy usage in your household.

Step 5: Log-on to your utility account

-  Find tools, rebates, and other ways to save!
-  Energy Outreach Colorado will contact you if you qualify for Xcel's community solar program.

YOUR MONTHLY NATURAL GAS USAGE



DAILY AVERAGES	Last Year	This Year
Temperature	36° F	37° F
Gas Therms	2.7	2.5
Gas Cost	\$1.86	\$1.56