



U.S. Department of Energy "Easy Ways To Save Energy" Fact Sheet

President Bush has called on all Americans to conserve and be more energy efficient in light of expected high energy prices this winter due to increasing energy demand and energy infrastructure damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Energy efficiency and conservation are key components of the Department of Energy's mission. And in conjunction with Energy Awareness Month, Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman is answering President Bush's call by launching a comprehensive, national campaign to educate American families, businesses and government agencies about "Easy Ways to Save Energy" that will help them save money, too.

For Consumers:

- **"Energy Savers" Guide:** This informative guide outlining easy ways to be more energy efficient and save money is available through www.energysavers.gov, the Department of Energy and our partners. The guide is also available in Spanish.
- **Radio Public Service Announcements:** The Department of Energy is releasing three radio public service announcements in English and Spanish that provide easy tips for saving energy. These public services announcements will be distributed to nearly 4,500 radio stations across the country by the Alliance to Save Energy.
- **The Energy Hog Program:** As part of the education effort, Secretary Bodman announced an aggressive campaign, beginning in January, 2006 starring DOE's "Energy Hog." Energy Hog ads will be placed in magazines, regional newspapers, on billboards, bus signs, bus stop signs and taxi tents.
- **Getting Kids Involved:** The Energy Hog campaign includes web-based educational games, web banner ads, a school curriculum for grades 3-8 as well as radio and television ads. The Home Depot, the Alliance to Save Energy, the Ad Council, the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association, 18 State Energy Offices and New Jersey Natural Gas and have partnered with the Department of Energy on this effort.

For American Business:

- **Energy Saving Teams:** To help improve the efficiency of 200 of America's most energy-intensive factories by 10%, the Department of Energy will send teams of energy efficiency experts these facilities. Through this effort, the Department hopes to create momentum to significantly improve energy practices throughout the industry.
- **Partnerships with DOE:** To expand the availability of the Energy Savers guide and include manufacturers, retailers and utilities in this education effort, the Department of Energy is making the guide available to be reprinted and distributed by manufacturers, retailers and local utilities.

For Government Agencies:

- **Energy Saving Teams:** In response to President Bush's call for federal agencies to save energy, Secretary Bodman has directed teams of qualified energy experts to deploy to federal facilities to identify quick and easy ways to save energy this winter. The federal government is the largest consumer of energy in the United States.

Energy Savers Website: www.energysavers.gov

Tips for Consumers

Reducing your family's energy bills isn't hard. In fact, an incredible amount of energy can be saved by taking a few simple steps such as

Properly maintain your heating system. Heating can account for almost half of the average family's winter energy bill. Make sure your furnace or heat pump receives professional maintenance each year. If replacing your heating system, look for the ENERGY STAR® label.

Plug air leaks with caulking, sealing, or weather stripping to save 10 percent or more on your energy bill. On a windy day, hold a lit candle next to windows, doors, electrical outlets, and light fixtures to test for leaks. Also, tape clear plastic sheeting to the inside of your window frames if drafts, water condensation, or frost are present.

Adequate insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawlspaces, as recommended for your geographical area, can save you up to 30 percent on home energy bills.

Insulate heating ducts, too, and keep them in good repair to prevent heat loss. Your system can lose up to 60 percent of its warm air before it reaches the register, if ducts are not properly insulated in unheated areas such as attics and crawlspaces. Also insulate your hot water heater and hot water pipes.

Cut your energy bills by up to 30 percent with Energy Star-labeled products. Look for the Energy Star label, the government's symbol for energy efficiency, when replacing your heating and cooling systems – as well as appliances, lighting, windows, office equipment, and home electronics. Find retailers near you at www.energystar.gov.

Install a programmable thermostat compatible with your heating system. Programming your thermostat from 72 degrees to 65 degrees for eight hours a day while no one is home, or while everyone is tucked in bed, can cut your heating bill up to 10 percent, paying for the cost of a basic unit in less than a year.

Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in place of comparable incandescent bulbs to save about 50 percent on your lighting costs. CFLs use only one-fourth the energy and last up to 10 times longer.

Install storm windows over single-pane windows or replace them with ENERGY STAR windows. Storm windows with low-e coating can reduce heat loss from air leakage, and reflect heat back into the room during the winter months save even more energy. Look for the Energy Star label, too, to maximize savings. In cold climates, ENERGY STAR windows can reduce your heating bills by 30 to 40 percent compared to uncoated, single-pane windows, according to the Efficient Windows Collaborative.

Turn off kitchen, bath, and other ventilating fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing to retain heated air.

Open curtains on your south facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

Close fireplace dampers when not in use. A chimney is designed for smoke to escape, so until you close it, warm air escapes.

Install timers on lights inside your home to avoid coming home to a dark house on winter evenings. For outdoor lights, a combined photocell and motion detector will improve home security while reducing energy costs.

Turn off everything not in use – lights, TVs, VCRs, CD and DVD players, computers.

