



## Energy Conservation

### Throughout Your Home & Business

- ◆ Turn off all lights and electronics when they're not in use.
- ◆ Replace incandescent light bulbs with CFLs (compact fluorescent lights). They use roughly 75% less energy and last up to 10 times longer.
- ◆ Invest in dimmer switches and 3-way CFLs for manual lowering of light levels.
- ◆ Ensure that registers and vents are clean and unobstructed by furniture and carpeting.
- ◆ Close doors and registers in unoccupied rooms.
- ◆ Install ceiling fans to circulate cool air in the summer and warm air in the winter.

### Kitchen Areas

- ◆ Keep refrigerator, microwave and oven doors closed and make sure door seals are airtight.
- ◆ Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they can heat efficiently.
- ◆ Cover pans to boil water or heat food; it heats faster and uses less energy.
- ◆ Match the size of your pan to the size of the heating element to prevent heat loss.
- ◆ Cover liquids and foods in the refrigerator since moisture makes the compressor work harder.
- ◆ Run the dishwasher only when it's full.

- ◆ Only use the "rinse/hold" function on your dishwasher for heavy loads.
- ◆ After the rinse cycle, prop the dishwasher door open and let dishes air dry.

## **Office/Work Areas**

- ◆ Use the "stand by" or "sleep" mode on computers and printers to save approximately 80% of energy used. For free software, visit [www.energystar.gov/powermanagement](http://www.energystar.gov/powermanagement).
- ◆ Completely turn off computers, printers, copiers, scanners and coffee pots at the end of the day.
- ◆ Unplug recharging adapters for laptops and cell phones as soon as they're fully charged.
- ◆ Use task lighting at your desk rather than lighting the entire room from overhead.

## **Living Areas**

- ◆ At the end of the day, unplug all electronics and media to prevent vampire energy use.
- ◆ On sunny winter days, open blinds on south- and west-facing windows to improve solar (heat) gain; close them in the summer to reduce heat gain.
- ◆ At night, close blinds and curtains to prevent loss of heat and air conditioning.
- ◆ Place task lighting near places you read rather than using general overhead lighting.

## **Bathrooms**

- ◆ When possible, take a shower instead of a bath since it tends to use less water.
- ◆ Use a water-saving showerhead and shorten showers as much as possible.
- ◆ When running small amounts of water from a faucet, use the cold knob/position. Using the hot knob may start the water heater even

though hot water won't reach the faucet before you've turned it off.

## **Mechanicals & Misc**

- ◆ Replace furnace filters once a month, or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- ◆ Inspect and weatherize doors and windows each season; repair promptly.
- ◆ Seal air leaks in floors, ceilings, soffits, cabinets, ductwork, plumbing and electrical outlets.
- ◆ In winter, set the thermostat at 68°F or below during the day.
- ◆ Lower the water heater thermostat. 115°F is usually plenty for most homes.
- ◆ Use outdoor lights with a photocell unit or a timer so they will turn off during the day.