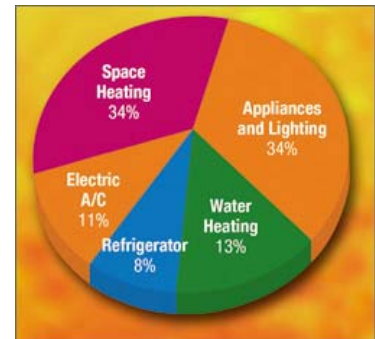


Energy Efficiency and Conservation (Or, the \$600 a Year Savings Plan)

Before you even take the first step towards installing any sort of renewable energy system, you should take a good look at your home or business and decide if anything can be done to improve your energy efficiency and conservation of energy. Energy efficiency means using energy-efficient products such as low-flow showerheads or compact fluorescent light bulbs in order to use less energy without changing your lifestyle. On the other hand, conserving energy means using the same appliances, etc. but changing the way in which you use them – such as turning off the lights when you leave a room or using a clothesline instead of a dryer on sunny days. The most money and energy is saved by using energy efficient products while practicing energy conservation habits – for example, you could use a fuel-efficient vehicle (energy efficiency) while combining multiple errands or carpooling (energy conservation). This Fact Sheet has been created to provide some tips to improve your energy efficiency and conservation. Together, these simple steps could save you \$600 a year or more on your utility bill.



Distribution of Home Energy Use
 Source: www1.eere.energy.gov/

Energy Efficiency:

- Heating and Cooling
 - When purchasing new heating equipment, try to find systems with high (above the national minimum of 78) Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) ratings.
 - When purchasing new cooling equipment, try to find systems with high (above the national minimum of 13) Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratios (SEER).
 - Consider purchasing a programmable thermostat.
- Water Heating
 - Install low-flow faucets and showerheads.
 - Insulate your hot water heater.
 - Use a programmable thermostat on your hot water heater.
- Lighting
 - Use compact fluorescents wherever you can.
 - If you can't remember to turn off the lights when you leave a room, consider installing timers or occupancy sensors to do it for you.
- Appliances
 - Always look for Energy Star® certified appliances. →
 - Refrigerators with the freezer on top are more efficient than if the freezer is on the side.
 - Look for front-loading washers and dryers with moisture sensors.



