

Energy

In the United States, residential energy use comes in at 22% of total usage. Major uses at home come from temperature related operations: heating and cooling food, water and the home. The remainder goes towards lighting and electric appliance. While energy's uses are obviously important to modern life, we must all make a conscious effort to use energy wisely and conserve it wherever and whenever possible. Keep the following tips in mind to make your everyday practices more energy-friendly.

- Be aware of draft and fix them when they occur, much of the energy used in homes is actually lost through drafty windows and doors.
- Some appliances use energy 24 hours a day even if they are turned off and not in use. Whenever possible, unplug appliances you are not actively using.
- Many utilities provide free or low-cost energy audits to determine which area(s) of the home is wasting energy. Request an audit and learn which problems need to be corrected, then take the steps necessary to do so.
- Adding storm windows to existing windows provides an excellent barrier that prevents air escape.
- Consult a landscaper about the most energy-efficient way to place trees and plants in your yard. Their placement can make a difference in how much heating and cooling energy you will use.
- Turn the lights off when you leave the room, even if you are coming back in a few minutes. This does add up in the long run.
- Don't keep the refrigerator door open while pouring a beverage or separating an individual piece of food from a package, this not only wastes energy, but causes food to spoil more quickly.
- Try to carpool, bike, or walk whenever possible.
- Make a habit of recycling whatever materials you can. The Village hosts a electronics recycling drop-off program every Monday at 10am beginning April thru November, located at the Village Hall 1900 Hassell Road. Acceptable Items: Computers, monitors, keyboards, mouse, drivers, DVD players, fax machines, microwaves and televisions.
- Don't leave house and garage doors open, this only makes air conditioning or heat escape the house while letting in hot or cold air.
- Dispose of batteries and cell phones in appropriate containers, this will help recycle materials as well as keep harmful sources out of our environment.