



Energy-Saving Tips for the Holidays



The holidays are an exciting, and expensive, time of year. We've made a list of energy-efficiency tips (and checked it twice) to help our members save money on energy costs this winter.

Pick smarter lightbulbs: Decorate for the holidays with strands of light-emitting diodes (LEDs). Using LED holiday lights for 12 hours a day cuts seasonal lighting costs by 90 percent when compared to traditional incandescent holiday lights.

Thermostat: Set your thermostat to 68° F (or lower if comfortable). Wear a sweater to stay warm or place an extra blanket on the bed at night.

Use drapes to your advantage: Make sure drapes and shades are open to catch free solar heat during the day. Close them at night to keep the heat inside.

Free the vent: Your HVAC system will have to work twice as hard if your air registers and vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or decorative items. Keep them clear to allow air to flow freely.

Garage: Leave your garage door down. A warmer garage will save energy.

Rug relief: Have a spare rug? Use it to cover bare floors for added insulation.

Cool food: You'll be cooking holiday meals before you know it, so don't make your refrigerator work too hard! Clean the coils on the back of the unit every year and set the temperature between 34°–37° F. Leave the freezer between 0°–5° F. Keep the freezer full — frozen food helps your freezer stay cool!

Hot savings: Heating water accounts for 12 percent of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120° F. For households with only one or two members, try 115° F.

Insulate water heaters and pipes: Wrap water pipes with foam and insulate the water heater, as well. There are other ways to conserve energy, too. Remember, you don't pay for what you don't use! When you're not watching TV or using lights, computers and other electronics, turn them off.

For more information on energy savings, visit www.sec.coop/waystosave.

Navigation: [Back to Newsletter](#)