

## IS YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT?

Complete the following home energy walk-thru to find simple ways to **SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY, & REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT**. The *Fast Facts* section provides additional information of the energy saving action. Visit [www.utahcleanenergy.org](http://www.utahcleanenergy.org) for a more comprehensive version of this audit.

Action	Done	Not Done	Date Comp.	Fast Facts
<b>LIGHTING</b>				
I have replaced my 10 most frequently used incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs), which are 2/3 more energy efficient and last 10 times as long.				If every US household replaced 5 lights with ENERGY STAR bulbs, we could prevent the annual output of more than 21 power plants! CFLs give off the same amount of light and you can save around \$25 in energy costs per CFL bulb. CFLs are not appropriate for all fixtures, including those with dimmers or motion detectors.
I turn the lights off when I am not in the room.				Nearly 10 % of the average home's electricity costs can be controlled with the flip of a light switch.
<b>REFRIGERATOR &amp; APPLIANCES</b>				
My refrigerator and appliances are ENERGY STAR rated.				Refrigerators account for 10% of your energy bill, and refrigerators built prior to 1990 can use two to three times more energy than new energy efficient models.
I have recycled my extra refrigerator(s).				By discontinuing the use of a second refrigerator, you can save about \$150 a year on your electricity bill and prevent 4500 pounds of global warming pollution each year. Rocky Mountain Power offers a cash incentive to recycle old, inefficient refrigerators, and they will even pick it up from your home. Contact your local utility to see about similar programs.
I have checked that the refrigerator door and gasket have a tight fit and no leaks -- the door closes firmly against the gasket.				You can check the tightness of the door by placing a flashlight inside the refrigerator and closing the door. If you see any light, the gasket may be worn and should be replaced.
The refrigerator temperature is set to 37° to 40°F for the fresh food compartment and 5°F for the freezer section. If I have a separate freezer for long-term storage, I keep it at 0°F.				Get an inexpensive appliance thermometer and place it in a glass of water in the center of the refrigerator. Check the temperature after 24 hours. To check the freezer temperature, place a thermometer between frozen packages. Read it after 24 hours. Also, regularly defrost your freezer, as frost buildup decreases the efficiency.
I only leave the refrigerator door open as long as necessary and I let the food cool				Decide what you want to get out before you open it and remove several items at once, you'll

Action	Done	Not Done	Date Comp.	Fast Facts
before putting it in the refrigerator.				reduce loss of cold air.
The coils on the back or underneath the refrigerator are cleaned at least once a year.				The coils at the back of the refrigerator are heat exchange surfaces. Keep them clean and the unit will operate at peak efficiency. Remember to unplug the refrigerator before cleaning the coils. Use a vacuum cleaner or soft brush.
Appliances with adaptors, lights, clocks are unplugged or plugged into a power strip, which I switch off when not in use.				Beware of phantom loads! Some appliances continue to use energy when they are not on but still plugged in. Buy ENERGY STAR products that save energy while in the off mode. <b>In the average US home, 40% of all electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. Across the US, this equals the annual output of 17 power plants.</b> Power strips can be used to shut off any power to the electronics, so no energy is wasted.
<b>LAUNDRY &amp; DISHES</b>				
I have an ENERGY STAR rated dishwasher and/or clothes washer.				Compared to a model manufactured before 1994, an ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washer can save up to \$110 per year on your utility bills and save more than 20 gallons of water per load.
The dishwasher, washer and dryer are only run when they are fully loaded.				Run your dishwasher with a full load. Most of the energy used by a dishwasher goes to heat water. Since you can't decrease the amount of water used per cycle, fill your dishwasher to get the most from the energy used to run it.
I use the energy-saving mode on the dishwasher, washer and dryer, if they have one.				The "Energy-Saving" setting uses less water and less energy to wash and dry the dishes.
I wash my clothes in cold water.				Using cold water for laundry can save you up to \$63 a year.
I dry my clothes on a line or drying rack, <i>or</i> I use the "low heat" setting for drying.				If you dry your clothes outside 6 months per year, you will prevent 1000 pounds of carbon dioxide annually. You'll save money and your clothes will smell summertime-fresh.
<b>COOKING</b>				
I use pots and pans that fit the stovetop burners and use a lid to reduce cooking time and energy use.				Pans that fit a burner absorb more energy, reducing the amount of wasted heat.
I don't preheat longer than necessary, and I bake as many dishes in the oven as I can at one time to make the most of the heat.				Ten minutes for preheating is sufficient, and it's not necessary to preheat if you're roasting, broiling or preparing foods with a cooking time of over an hour.

Action	Done	Not Done	Date Comp.	Fast Facts
I keep the oven door closed and look through the window to check on my food.				The oven temperature is lowered by 25°F to 75°F every time you open the door.
<b>WATER</b>				
I have aerator faucets and low-flow showerheads that save water while still providing adequate flow.				Inexpensive and simple to install, low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators can reduce your home water consumption as much as 50%, and reduce your energy cost of heating the water also by as much as 50%.
None of my faucets have leaks, especially my hot water faucets.				A water leak is just money, water, and energy down the drain. Repair leaky faucets as quickly as possible; a slow drip could waste up to 48 gallons of water a week.
The hot water heater thermostat is set to 120° F.				For each 10°F reduction in water temperature, you can save between 3%–5% in energy costs. Reducing your water temperature to 120°F slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes. Check your dishwasher’s manual for the appropriate water temperature.
The water heater is properly insulated with a water heater blanket, and my hot water pipes are covered with sleeve insulation.				Hot water heater blankets cost only around \$10. You can recoup the cost of the blanket in less than a year from energy savings.
When I leave for a week or more, I turn my water heater down.				Remember to turn it back up when you return.
I have an ENERGY STAR qualified hot water heater.				Water heating accounts for 13% of your utility bill. If your water heater is more than 7 years old, you should consider upgrading. For even greater savings choose a solar hot water system or on-demand hot water heater.
<b>HEATING &amp; COOLING</b>				
I have and <b>use</b> a programmable thermostat to automatically set back the temperature while I am away or sleeping.				A programmable thermostat, when used properly, can save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills by automatically adjusting your thermostat while you are away or sleeping. They are easy to set according to your schedule.
During the heating season, I set the thermostat at 68° Fahrenheit (F) or lower when I am home. When away for 4 hours or more, it is set at 55° F. I also set my thermostat lower at night while I am asleep.				For every degree you lower your heat, you save up to 5% on heating costs.
I use solar passive heating during the winter by opening the drapes/blinds on south-facing windows to let the sun shine in to heat my home. At night, I close the drapes to retain indoor heat.				In the summer, do the opposite by closing your drapes during the day to keep out the sun’s warm rays.

Action	Done	Not Done	Date Comp.	Fast Facts
The furnace is clean and the filter is replaced monthly during the heating and cooling season.				Clean furnaces run more efficiently, thus saving energy and money.
If I have a fireplace, I close the damper when I am not using it.				Closing the damper prevents warm air from escaping out of the fireplace
I have an evaporative or “swamp” cooler. With Utah’s arid climate, evaporative coolers are the most efficient way to cool in the southwest.				Cooling accounts for 30% of home energy use. Evaporative coolers use 1/5 the energy of a central air conditioner. If you have an air conditioner, make sure it has an ENERGY STAR label with a SEER rating of 13 or above.
During the summer, the thermostat is set at 78° F or higher when I am home. When I’m away for 4 hours or more it is set at 85° F.				By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with appropriate insulation, air sealing, and thermostat settings, you can cut your energy use for heating and cooling, and reduce global warming pollution by 20% - 50%.
I have installed an ENERGY STAR ceiling fan.				A ceiling fan will make a room feel 5°F cooler, and ENERGY STAR rated ceiling fans are 50% more efficient than conventional fans. In the winter, you can set your fan to turn in the clockwise direction to help efficiently distribute warm air throughout your room.
I keep my windows and doors shut while heating or cooling.				NOTE: If you have an evaporative cooling system, a cracked window is necessary for air flow.
When rooms in my home are not being used, I shut the door to the room and close off any vents, so as to not heat or cool the room.				If you heat your house with a heat pump, do not close the vents – closing the vents could harm the heat pump.
The vents, radiators and other heating and cooling equipment are not blocked by furniture, rugs, drapes, etc.				Adequate space around heating and cooling equipment allows it to operate efficiently.
The air ducts are sealed and insulated properly.				Leaking ducts can reduce the efficiency of the system up to 30 %. Seal leaks with mastic or non-cloth backed tape labeled UL181 B-FX. This is especially important for ducts located in unconditioned space, such as your attic.
<b>HOME SEALING and INSULATION</b>				
For more information on Home Sealing, download the free EPA ENERGY STAR “Do-It-Yourself Home Sealing Guide”. See the “More Resources” section at the end of this audit for a link.				
My walls, floors, basement and ceiling are properly insulated according to my climate zone.				Increased insulation could cut heating and cooling costs 20% - 30% and make your home more comfortable. Visit <a href="http://www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html">http://www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html</a> to find out what is appropriate for my location.

Action	Done	Not Done	Date Comp.	Fast Facts
I have checked my roof, walls, doors, ceilings and windows for leaks and sealed them appropriately.				Hire a contractor or see the “Do-It-Yourself Home Sealing Guide” for proper sealing methods.
My doors and windows have weather-stripping between the door/window and frame.				Weather stripping ensures a tight fit for doors and windows, which helps avoid drafts and air leaks.
I have high-efficiency ENERGY STAR double-paned windows or storm windows. Alternatively, I put up plastic sheeting around my windows during the heating season.				Energy-efficient windows can save up to 30% on your heating and cooling costs.
<b>COMPUTERS and ELECTRONICS</b>				
Home computers are powered down when not being used.				If you can't turn your computer off, be sure to use the “Energy-Saving” mode and turn off your monitor.
My computers are automatically set to go into standby mode or “sleep” after 20 minutes of inactivity.				When you know you will be gone for a few hours, put your computer in standby mode to save energy.
All other equipment (scanners, printers, copiers, etc.) are turned off when not needed for not more than 2 hours.				Buy ENERGY STAR qualified equipment to reduce energy use while in standby mode.
Equipment, electronics and computers are ENERGY STAR rated.				Over its lifetime, ENERGY STAR qualified equipment in a single home office (e.g., computer, monitor, printer, and fax) can save enough electricity to light an entire home for more than 4 years.
I turn off, computers, printers, TV's, DVD's, speakers, and other electronics when not in use. I plug my electronics into a power strip and turn the power strip off when not in use.				Beware of phantom loads! Some appliances continue to use energy when they are not on but still plugged in. Buy ENERGY STAR products that save energy while in the off mode. <b>In the average US home, 40% of all electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. Across the US, this equals the annual output of 17 power plants.</b> Power strips cut off any power to the electronics, so no energy is wasted.
<b>OUTDOORS</b>				
The outdoor lights are on a programmable timer or motion sensor, and they have been upgraded to energy efficient light fixtures.				Better yet, upgrade to solar powered lights which charge their batteries during the day, come on at night, and don't require any electricity from the grid.
The trees and shrubs are planted around my house in such a way as to help shade in the summer and provide shelter from the wind.				Deciduous (leaf-shedding) trees and shrubs on the south side, shade during the summer, but allow the sun through in the winter. Trees and shrubs can provide shelter from cold winds when strategically planted.
<b>POOL (IF APPLICABLE)</b>				

Action	Done	Not Done	Date Comp.	Fast Facts
I run my pool filter and sweeper operations at “off-peak” hours, between 8 pm and 6 am.				By running this equipment during “off-peak” hours, you are helping to lower peak power demand.
The pool cover is on as much as possible when the pool is not in use.				70% of pool heat loss occurs from evaporation.
I have a Solar Hot Water Heating System for my pool heating needs. If not, I control the pool temperature and only heat the pool when necessary.				Save money by reducing your pool water temperature and the number of months you heat your pool. A Solar Hot Water heating system is an efficient and cost-effective way to heat your pool.
The pool cleaning & heating equipment is clean & well lubricated.				Efficient & clean equipment saves energy. For more energy savings, consider upgrading the pumps & motors with more energy efficient equipment. Look for the ENERGY STAR label.

This Energy Efficiency Audit was adapted by Utah Clean Energy from *Alliance to Save Energy’s Home Energy Audit and PowerSmart Brochure*, [www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org); *American Council for an Energy –Efficient Economy’s Home Energy Checklist for Action*, [www.aceee.org](http://www.aceee.org); and *Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network’s Energy Savers Brochure*, [www.eren.doe.gov](http://www.eren.doe.gov).

**MORE ENERGY EFFICIENCY RESOURCES****⚡ Utah Clean Energy: [www.utahcleanenergy.org](http://www.utahcleanenergy.org)**

Utah Clean Energy is a non-profit working to speed the transition to a cleaner, safer, more sustainable energy future. Visit us on-line for more information on energy efficiency and to download this home energy audit to share with friends and family.

**⚡ Utah Energy Conservation Coalition: [www.utahenergy.org](http://www.utahenergy.org)**

The Utah Energy Conservation Coalition (d.b.a. Energy Rated Homes of Utah) is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide opportunities for the citizens of Utah to receive energy education, take advantage of special mortgage programs, and to encourage energy conservation in all areas of the housing industry.

**⚡ US Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR Program: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)**

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Learn about energy efficient choices for your home or business to reduce energy costs.

**⚡ A Do-It-Yourself Guide to ENERGY STAR Home Sealing:**

[www.energystar.gov/ia/home\\_improvement/home\\_sealing/DIY\\_COLOR\\_100\\_dpi.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/home_improvement/home_sealing/DIY_COLOR_100_dpi.pdf)

Download this do it yourself guide to help seal the envelope of your home or building. This easy step by step guide gives great instructions and explanations to find and fix air leaks in your basement or attic, and how to add more insulation.

**⚡ Department of Energy's Consumer's Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/>

The Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program provides quick links to home, automobile, and workplace energy efficiency tips.

**⚡ Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network (EREN): [www.eren.doe.gov](http://www.eren.doe.gov)**

Learn about energy efficient buildings, transportation and power, and learn the basics of all the different kinds of renewable energy.

**⚡ Alliance to Save Energy: [www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org)**

A non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the efficient use of energy to strengthen America's economy, improve the environment, make housing more affordable and move the country toward energy independence.

**⚡ American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy: [www.aceee.org](http://www.aceee.org)**

ACEEE is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency, economic prosperity and environmental protection. To learn more about ways to save energy and available incentives for energy efficiency upgrades, download the *Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings*.

**⚡ Rocky Mountain Power: [www.rockymountainpower.net](http://www.rockymountainpower.net)**

Learn how to reduce energy use in your home or your business and Rocky Mountain Power's incentives for efficiency upgrades.

**⚡ Consumer Federation of America [www.buyenergyefficient.org](http://www.buyenergyefficient.org)**

Consumer Federation of America is an advocacy, research, education, and service organization offering a consumer guide to buying energy efficiency products for the home.

**⚡ Consumer Reports [www.greenerchoices.org](http://www.greenerchoices.org)**

Find tools such as energy calculators, rebate information, links to information about local energy, and energy-efficient products.

**⚡ Southwest Energy Efficiency Project <http://www.swenergy.org/>**

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is promoting greater energy efficiency in a six-state region that includes: Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, & Wyoming. Visit their website for consumer and business energy efficiency tips.

**-- MORE CLEAN ENERGY TIPS --**

- **Choose Clean Energy.** Contact your power provider to find out about green power purchase options, such as wind and solar programs.
- If you decide to **install a solar or wind system** on your home or business, you may be eligible to receive federal and state tax incentives. For more information, visit <http://www.energy.utah.gov/rincentives.htm#dsire> and [www.utahcleanenergy.org](http://www.utahcleanenergy.org).
- **Make your dollars count.** Supporting local businesses that invest in clean energy and efficiency is an easy way to encourage more sustainable business practices everywhere.
- **If you are a business owner,** you can purchase clean power and improve your energy efficiency today. Visit: [www.utahcleanenergy.org](http://www.utahcleanenergy.org) or call (801) 363-4046 to find out more.
- **Use alternative transportation** to travel around town. Walk, bike, scooter, carpool, take the bus, or light rail – it’s a healthier choice for you and the environment.
- **Drive a hybrid or fuel efficient car.** A car that gets at least 32 MPG is great way to save energy, money, and the environment.
- **Avoid idling.** Turn off your engine when you aren’t moving to prevent harmful emissions and save on fuel expenses.
- **Keep your tires filled** and save up to 5% on your fuel tab.
- **Reduce, reuse, and recycle** to save the energy needed to make new products.
- **Contact your local, state and federal representatives** to voice your support of clean, efficient, and sustainable energy solutions! Visit [utahcleanenergy.org](http://utahcleanenergy.org) to find out how to TAKE ACTION.
- **Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)** or call 1-888-STAR-YES (782-7937) to find out more about ENERGY STAR products and tips for energy efficiency.

**Utah Clean Energy would like to thank the Utah Geological Survey – State Energy Program and the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation for their contributions to our Clean Energy Campaign.**