

Self Assessment Checklist

To begin with a few independent energy conservation checkpoints, consider some of the ideas below. It's usually easy to make one or two small changes at a time to notice how they add up without impacting your lifestyle dramatically. Consider trying something from this list to begin with:

- Take an energy saving home tour at www.togetherwesave.com.
- Try using the microwave instead of the stove or oven to heat food.
- Take shorter showers and install low flow showerheads.
- Hang laundry outdoors to dry or use a drying rack.
- Avoid or limit using individual space heaters.
- New detergents are formulated for cold water washing—give it a try!
- Turn off powerstrips to televisions, computers, chargers and game consoles.
- Adjust your thermostat by a couple of degrees warmer in summer and cooler in winter, or get a programmable thermostat.
- Consolidate contents from multiple freezers for better efficiency and unplug the spare.
- Be vigilant about fixing dripping faucets or a leaky water heater.
- Try using a timer on a swimming pool pump—trial and error will help you find the right balance.
- Unplug the spare fridge in the garage or shop—vintage



Help Control Seasonal Electricity Costs

Did you know it costs less to produce electricity for your use during certain hours of the day, days of the week and seasons? It's true! Because consumers use less power on weekends, holidays and overnight, it is less costly to produce adequate power during those hours because our providers can utilize the most efficient production methods.



During the highest electricity use times of day, our power providers must use all varieties of production available to them, and so the overall cost of production goes up. Throughout the summer months of June, July and August, our region's power costs are highest on weekdays between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Try this



Many laundry detergents are now formulated for cold water. Give it a try—switching to cold may work for you and saves electricity!

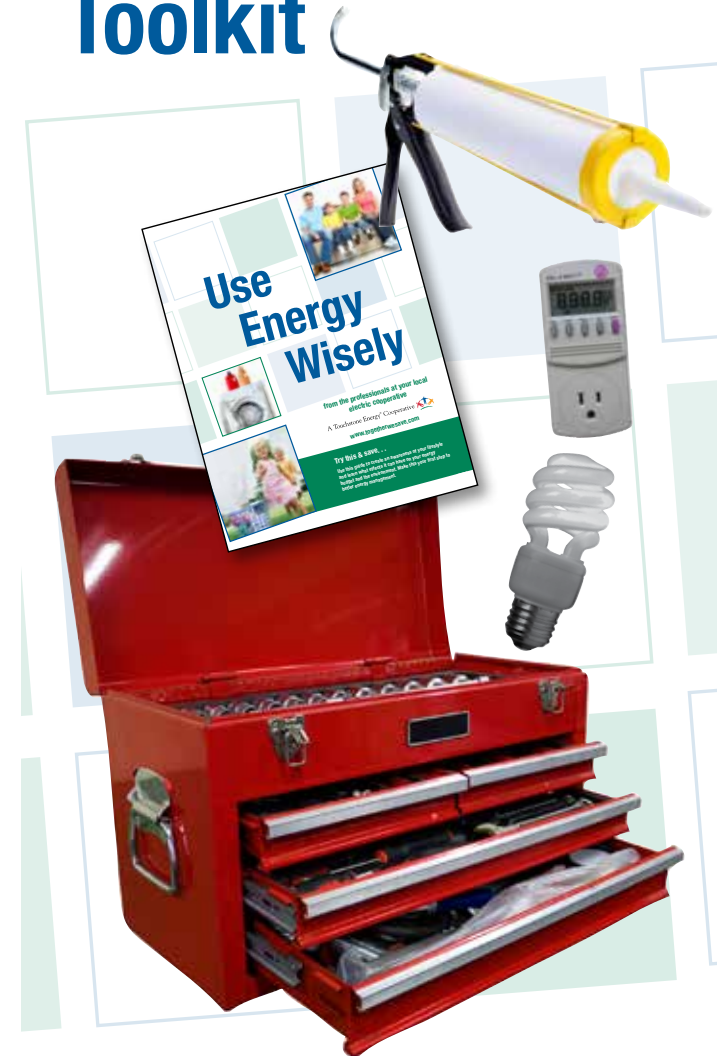
Drying laundry on the line will save even more!



Contact your local electric cooperative for free assistance with any of these tools.



Energy Efficiency & Conservation Toolkit



"I suppose it is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail."

- Abraham Maslow

Energy Saving Tools

Choose from the following collection of tools to create your own personal energy savings toolkit. Many of these tools are FREE and are available at your local electric cooperative.

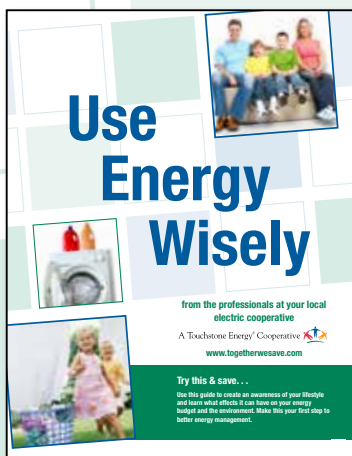
Support from Your Electric Cooperative

Your electric cooperative wants to help you with decisions about which specific energy efficiency and conservation tools may work best in your situation.

Energy saving measures that you integrate or install in your home or business may qualify for ENERGY STAR rebates or financial incentives and local incentives. Ask your electric cooperative which things on your savings list may qualify, and apply early as funds are limited and they could possibly run out during the year. We also want to share several additional “tools”, or resources below to assist you in your quest for energy efficiency and conservation in your home or business.

Use Energy Wisely Guide

Pick up or download a free copy of “Use Energy Wisely” from your local electric cooperative. This informative booklet will guide you through a more complete self-assessment of your family’s unique energy needs in your home. The guide includes an extensive, detailed list of appliance and equipment electric use amounts and a convenient calculator to estimate your costs.



Have You Measured?



Learn which individual appliances cost you the most, how much electricity some of those “phantom” electronics consume and where you can save energy. Check out an electricity usage monitor at your local electric cooperative or library. You can easily measure by the hour, day, month or year to figure your costs.

Web Tools at Your Fingertips!

Energy Efficiency/Conservation References:

- Together We Save: www.togetherwesave.com
- ENERGY STAR: www.energystar.gov
- Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy: www.eere.energy.gov
- Energy Savers: www.energysavers.gov
- U.S. Department of Energy (tax credits, rebates, savings, weatherization): www.energy.gov
- Energy Education Council: www.energycouncil.org
- American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy: www.aceee.org

Don't let your computer “sleep” or “hibernate” – power it down for savings!



Energy Savings Guides from Your Electric Cooperative:

- Use Energy Wisely
- Home Energy Savings Guide
- 101 Low-Cost/No Cost Home Energy Savings Measures
- Questline tools (eLibrary, eCalculators, eTips, eNewsletter)



You can control the phantoms! Turn off the power strip when you'll be away.

Kids Can Help Too!

- Kids' ENERGY STAR: www.energystar.gov/kids
- EnergyEducationCouncil: www.energycouncil.org (link to e-Smartkids)
- Touchstone Energy “Learn About Energy” booklet www.touchstoneenergykids.com
- Touchstone Energy Kids' resources

Cooperative Energy Assessment, A Value Added, Energy Saving Tool

Use a home energy assessment as a tool to make some improvements and to save some electricity at home. A home energy assessment can help you protect your investment in your home and make energy efficient improvements to increase the comfort, safety, durability and value of your home.

Spend some quality time with the Member Services energy experts at your electric cooperative. These experts are trained to identify causes of potential problems in your home and to provide you with solutions.

We specialize in taking the time to help our members find the best energy saving tools for their situation. Contact your local electric cooperative to begin saving.