

10 Tips For Reducing Energy Use

Here are 10 no-cost or low-cost strategies to help you conserve electricity and save money.

- **Take control of your thermostat.**

Heating and cooling account for the majority of energy use in the average American home. Even a temperature change of 1 degree can add up to significant annual savings.



Reduce the setting to

as low as comfortable in the winter and as high as comfortable in the summer. Programmable thermostats can help save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs by simply adjusting temperature settings while you sleep.

- **Clothes washing watch.** About

90 percent of the energy used to wash clothes is for heating water. Reduce that cost by using less water and washing with cooler temperatures.

- **Reduce hot water waste.** Hot water accounts for 13 percent to 17 percent of a family's annual energy use. Setting the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees and installing low-flow faucets and showerheads can cut water heating costs.

- **Air dry dishes.** Instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle, let your dishes dry naturally.

- **Unplug unused or underused appliances and electronics.** That includes the old pop and beer refrigerator in the garage, as well as battery chargers, shredders and other electronics that constantly consume energy in standby mode.

- **Make conservation a habit.** Turn off computers, monitors, televisions and

lights every time you leave the room for more than a few minutes.

- **Clean or replace filters.** A dirty filter reduces airflow and can increase a system's power consumption by 10 percent or more. Change filters once a month during peak heating and cooling seasons.

- **Switch to CFLs.** Compact fluorescent lights are 70 percent more efficient and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent lights.

- **Seal heating ducts.** A heating system can lose up to 60 percent of its heated air—either through heat loss or leaks—before it reaches the registers if ducts are not sealed and insulated.

- **Plug cracks and holes.** Perhaps the quickest dollar-saving tasks you can tackle yourself are caulking, sealing and weather stripping all seams, cracks and openings to the outside. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December

- 1—OMSI After Dark, Portland, 21 and over, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- 1-2—Oregon Landscape Expo, Portland Expo Center
- 3—White Salmon Arts Council's "I'm Dreaming of a White Salmon"
- 3-4—Dallesport-Murdock Community Council Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dallesport
- 4-5—Holiday Barrel Tasting, Maryhill Winery
- 5—Community Christmas Bazaar, Goldendale
- 5—\$2 Sunday at OMSI, Portland
- 11—Sing-along Christmas carols and cantata, Maryhill Winery
- 11-12—Last Chance Holiday Bazaar, Hood River County Fairgrounds
- 14—\$4 Second Tuesday at the Oregon Zoo, Portland
- 14—KPUD commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 24—Christmas holiday, KPUD offices closed
- 28—KPUD commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale
- 31—New Year's holiday, KPUD offices closed

To have an event listed in the Community Calendar, call (509) 773-7606.

Use Electricity Safely During the Holidays

Extension cords help brighten the winter holidays by ensuring your twinkling lights reach enough outlets, but it is your job to make sure they reach those outlets safely. Below are some safety tips from your public power utility:

- Use extension cords for short-term jobs during the holidays, but pack them away when you take down the tree. They are not intended for everyday use.
- Do not plug extension cords together. Choose one long cord instead.
- Unplug cords when not in use. An extension cord remains energized until it is unplugged from the wall.
- Never run extension cords under a rug or across a wet floor.
- Outdoor uses require cords rated for the outdoors. It is not safe to use indoor cords outside.
- Replace extension cords that are damaged, cut or feel hot to the touch.