

## Save Energy this Winter: Take these Small Steps

- \$ ***Lower Your Thermostat.***
- \$ ***Set Your Thermostat to 65 Degrees*** (or lower) ***at Night instead of 70 Degrees.***
- \$ ***Switch to a Programmable Thermostat so Heat can be Turned Down Automatically at Night or While you are at Work.***
- \$ ***Get Your Heating System Tuned Up by a Service Professional Annually.***  
A service professional will know how to keep your heating system running most efficiently, saving you money on your utility bills.
- \$ ***Change Your Furnace Filter Regularly or When Dirty.***
- \$ ***Keep Doors Leading Outside Closed As Much As Possible.***  
This will help maintain the warmth in your house by reducing cold air coming inside.
- \$ ***Use Window Treatments to Help Keep Your Home Stay Warm.***  
Curtains and blinds add an extra layer of insulation around your windows. Closing them at night will help keep the warm air in; opening them during the day will allow the sun to warm your home.
- \$ ***Close Your Fireplace Flue when You're Not Using It.***  
This will help eliminate drafts and keep the warm air inside your home.
- \$ ***Install and Use a Ceiling Fan.***  
Ceiling fans set at a low-speed in a clockwise direction circulate warm air away from the ceiling and move it around the room.
- \$ ***Lower the Temperature of Your Hot Water Heater.*** (110 degrees or lower)
- \$ ***Switch to Real Time Pricing for Your Electricity.***  
See [www.thewattspot.com](http://www.thewattspot.com) or call 1-877-WattSpot.
- \$ ***Monitor Your Energy Use.***  
Join Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Energy Saver to track your energy use and earn reward points for savings. Points are redeemable at many national retailers. See [www.cubenergysaver.com](http://www.cubenergysaver.com).

**\$ *Get a Home Energy Audit.***

Energy Impact Illinois, a US Dep't of Energy program, will arrange for free home energy efficiency audits when building owners host a house party with their neighbors to learn ways to save money and reduce energy usage. Or owners can pay a reduced cost of \$99 for this audit. Contact Rob Geltner at 847-845-1900 or [rob@energyimpactillinois.net](mailto:rob@energyimpactillinois.net).

**\$ *Seal Air Leaks Around Your Home, Particularly Your Windows, with Caulk or Weather Stripping.***

Install weather stripping to alleviate air leaks around windows and doors located between heated and unheated areas.

- Air leaks around the window and door trim should be caulked, as well as around cove and baseboard molding on exterior walls.
- Insulated covers should be installed on electrical outlets and switches located on exterior walls.
- Plastic film insulation can also be applied on windows and sliding patio doors that won't be used in the winter.
- If window unit air conditioners cannot be removed, they should be covered with plastic and air leaks sealed with foam rope and removable caulk.

**\$ *Air Seal & Insulate Your Attic.***

It's one of the most cost-effective savings measures you can take, and you may be able to do it yourself! Crawl spaces and walls are other key areas for air sealing and insulation.

**\$ *Upgrade to a High Efficiency Gas Furnace or Boiler.***

Replacing your old furnace with a more energy efficiency one can save you hundreds annually. Get a rebate for \$600 for boilers, \$500 for furnaces and \$100 for boiler reset controls through November 30, 2012—see [http://www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/home/rebates\\_residential.aspx](http://www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/home/rebates_residential.aspx). Federal tax credits may also be available on boilers and furnaces.

**\$ *Insulate Your Exterior Walls.***

This will help to maintain a consistent temperature in your home, keeping it warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

**\$ *If you are Having Trouble Paying your Utility Bills, Contact The National Energy Assistance Referral Project.***

The National Energy Assistance Referral Project is a free service for people who are interested in applying for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which may pay a portion of the energy bills of eligible low-income persons. Call 1-866-674-6327 or email [energy@ncat.org](mailto:energy@ncat.org).