

Campus Climate Action Corps

Connecticut Energy Efficiency Community Resource Guide



CCAC@compact.org



compact.org/CCAC



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About Us

[The Campus Climate Action Corps \(CCAC\)](#) is a [Campus Compact](#) and [AmeriCorps](#) initiative dedicated to improving energy efficiency and cost savings for economically disadvantaged individuals and to lessening our environmental impact.

CCAC AmeriCorps members serve as a vital link to spread our message across the entire state! Campus Compact initiatives bring positive growth to both the AmeriCorps members and the communities they serve. The CCAC program is a staple in the community because it promotes energy conservation for environmental and financial reasons while bringing communities closer together.

The goal of CCAC is to reach households that have higher energy burdens or spend a disproportionate amount of their income on energy bills. Especially focused on economically disadvantaged residents, CCAC provides access to energy efficiency resources that aim to lower energy bills and promote environmental sustainability.

Environmental sustainability lies at the heart of every CCAC initiative. More people saving energy means fewer carbon emissions released into the atmosphere, a vital step in the right direction in our battle against the climate crisis. CCAC initiatives build community partnerships to promote energy efficiency awareness. Not only do these partnerships encourage various groups to unite around environmental stewardship, but they also open pathways for future collaboration and opportunity in the community. Collectively, CCAC's initiatives spur environmental and financial progress while uniting communities in the name of energy efficiency.

Additionally, CCAC initiatives have a profound impact on the AmeriCorps members who participate in them. AmeriCorps members gain experience in planning and operating an environmentally focused public awareness campaign while developing valuable skills in the process. Over their term of service, members develop skills such as time management, leadership, communication, creativity, and volunteer management. The skills and experiences that Campus Compact members gain over the course of service are certainly invaluable to any individual seeking to enhance their professional self, regardless of their desired career.

CCAC's initiative provides an irreplaceable framework for sustainable living that works to preserve the environment, benefits the community, and provides priceless experiences and skill development for people passionate about making a difference.

CCAC In Connecticut

CCAC has a growing presence in Connecticut and is currently partnered with two host sites: Central Connecticut State University and Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven. To learn more about our other projects, please visit our website [here](#).



Why is Energy Efficiency Important?

Energy efficiency means using *less* energy to perform a task (i.e. turning off a light). Having an energy efficient home improves your household’s health, safety, and comfort, as well as helps protect the environment. Finding ways to maximize energy efficiency is particularly important for low-income households because economically disadvantaged people experience higher energy burdens. Low-income houses have an average of [5% more of an “energy cost burden”](#) than average households.

Improves Health, Safety, and Comfort

Maximizing energy efficiency reduces the need to burn fossil fuels to generate electricity. Pollutants from fossil fuel combustion can lead to cancer, respiratory illnesses, heart disease, and stroke, all of which are leading causes of death in the United States. High energy burdens may also force you to cut back on heating, cooling, and lighting expenses, which can have many physical and mental health consequences, such as uncomfortable temperatures, inadequate lighting, unsafe housing conditions, and constant financial and social stress.

Helps the Environment

When you burn fossil fuels to power your home, you release carbon dioxide and other **greenhouse gasses** that trap heat in Earth’s atmosphere, warming the planet’s surface. This leads to **climate change** which causes sea-level rise, inhabitable climates, extreme weather, and many other problems that threaten life on Earth. Economically disadvantaged populations are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Increasing energy efficiency can slow climate change by decreasing demand for energy imports and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy estimates that energy efficiency policies could reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030.

Energy Efficiency in Your Home

Whether you are a homeowner or a renter, you will find information in this manual about how you can lessen your household energy expenses through:

- The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Insulating Window Inserts
- Rebates for energy and cost-efficient upgrades
- Tips for maximizing energy efficiency
- Advocating for Climate Action in Connecticut

Saves Money

Economically disadvantaged households can save money on heating, water, electricity, and household appliances through energy efficiency benefit programs such as **CEAP** (Connecticut Energy Assistance Program), **WAP** (Weatherization Assistance Programs), and **rebate** and

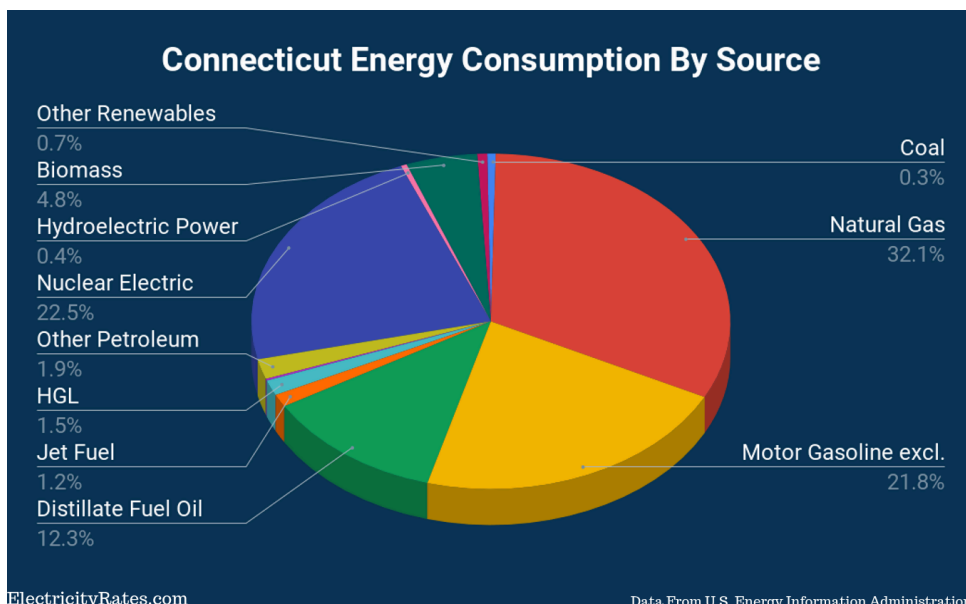
incentive programs. Simple tips and tricks can help you save even more energy and money in your home.

Connecticut Energy Profile

Connecticut is the fourth most densely populated state in the US and the third-smallest in land area. On a per capita basis, Connecticut ranks sixth among the states that use the least amount of energy. The residential sector leads Connecticut’s end-use energy consumption and accounts for about 34% of the energy use in the state. The transportation sector accounts for about 29% of state energy consumption, and the commercial sector closely follows at about 26%. The industrial sector uses the least amount of energy, at about 11% of the state total.

Connecticut’s economy uses less energy to produce each dollar of gross domestic product (GDP) than all other states except California, Massachusetts, and New York. Connecticut ranks among the 10 states with the highest share of electricity generated from nuclear power. In 2021, natural gas fueled 55% of Connecticut’s total electricity net generation, with the amount of natural gas-fired generation increasing by more than half from a decade earlier as about 2,000 megawatts in natural gas-fired generating units came online. Click [here](#) to learn more about Connecticut’s Energy Profile.

The energy burden in Connecticut can range widely from town to town. For example, wealthier towns like Greenwich can have an energy Burden of 2-4%, whereas towns with less average income, [like Hartford, can have energy burdens over 10%](#). This makes it especially important to focus efforts on awareness of energy efficiency and home energy solutions in low-income areas in Connecticut.



The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)

What is CEAP?

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (**CEAP**) is a state and federally-funded program that provides money to low-income homeowners and renters to help pay for heating costs. CEAP serves millions of people each year.

CEAP Eligibility in Connecticut

The amount of help you receive from CEAP is dependent on your **income**, **household size**, and **energy costs**. Typically, people who participate in or have family members who participate in benefit programs such as **SNAP**, **SSI**, and **TANF** are automatically eligible for CEAP. Renters can qualify for LIHEAP benefits even if heating is included in their rent.

Other Benefits of CEAP

In Connecticut, CEAP eligibility is a gateway to other energy benefit programs such as:

- **The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**, provides grants for **weatherization improvements** such as insulation, weather-stripping, caulking, and some safety-related repairs (see pg. 5 for more information)
- **The Central Heating Improvement Program (CHIP)**, provides **grants** to repair or replace central heating systems.
- **Connecticut Housing's heat pump program** which pays for the cost and installation of heat pumps for eligible Maine homeowners (see *Rebate Programs*, pg 8).
- **Enhanced rebates** for energy efficiency upgrades (see *Rebate Programs*, pg 8).
- **Low Income Assistance Plans (LIAP)** to assist with electricity costs.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

What is Weatherization?

Kind of like bundling up your home! **Weatherization** is the process of protecting a building from air leaks and the elements to increase energy efficiency and reduce heating and cooling costs. According to the **US Department of Energy**, proper weatherization helps households save up to [15% on heating and cooling costs and 11% on total energy costs annually annually.](#)³

Why Should Residents Weatherize?

Connecticut is vulnerable to extreme weather conditions in summer and winter. As a result, many Connecticut residents experience increased heating and cooling costs and uncomfortable temperatures in their homes. This makes weatherization measures particularly important for Connecticut residents, who can save money and energy while improving the comfort of their homes.

What Does WAP Entail?

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provides low-income households with full-scale home energy efficiency services. An average of \$4,725 in allowable energy efficiency measures is available to eligible households. The most common measures include air sealing, insulation of the attic, sidewall, floor pipes and ducts, and limited energy-related repairs.

Weatherization Services that are Typically Funded Include:

- Insulation and venting
- Weather stripping
- Door sweeps
- Air sealing and caulking
- Sealing ducts
- Chimney bypasses
- Wrapping pipes
- Safety-related repairs
- Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED

Lasting Benefits of WAP

- Nationally, economically disadvantaged families spend an average of \$1,800 on energy bills each year. WAP's energy upgrades save families an average of \$437 annually on heating and cooling costs, with additional energy and cost savings from lighting and appliance upgrades.⁶

- Low-income homes typically save an average of 35% on energy after weatherization services.⁶
- Weatherization continues to save money and energy each year.⁶
- Weatherization helps the environment by reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 2.65 metric tons/year per home.⁶
- Weatherization decreases pollution from burning fossil fuels and coal, improving local air quality and physical health.⁶

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Connecticut Weatherization Assistance Program (CTWAP)

What is CTWAP?

CTWAP serves LIHEAP-eligible households with heating system repair, replacement, and maintenance services all year round. The Heating Emergency Assistance Retrofit Task Weatherization Assistance Program (HEARTWAP) provides emergency heating system repair and replacement services to low-income households. The program is administered by a network of local agencies. Oftentimes, this is the same agency that administers the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) program also known as Home Energy Assistance. See the "How to Apply" link to contact the local agency.

To learn more about the CTWAP, click [here](#).

The program is designed primarily to serve homeowners. The program is primarily an emergency-based heating system repair program that helps eligible homeowners pay to repair or replace defective or unsafe heating systems. Funds are also available for asbestos abatement only as needed to enable heating system repairs or replacements to be completed safely. The agency contracts with licensed and insured heating repair technicians to fix the problem. Interested households should contact their local Home Energy Assistance agency for application information.

Climate Action in the United States

Climate Crisis

In the 21st century, the world faces an unprecedented crisis: climate change. Due to the burning of fossil fuels and other unsustainable practices, harmful greenhouse gases are released into the air that warm the planet and send a range of cascading effects down our natural ecosystems. Coastal homes will be flooded, extreme weather events will become stronger and more common, and a wide variety of other effects will cause both environmental and socioeconomic effects throughout the United States and the world. The Northeastern United States will not be shielded from these effects, and this brings about the urgent need for climate action.

Climate action is about the process of taking meaningful steps that reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and enacting meaningful change that will prevent the climate crisis from accelerating. Nationally, the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) is the flagship bill of the Biden administration that aims to curb greenhouse gas emissions and fight against climate change. Provisions of the bill include investing approximately 300 million into climate provisions, including renewable energy technology, investing in electric vehicle infrastructure, and over 1 billion dollars towards climate resilience in low-income areas. Also, as part of his climate agenda, Biden launched the [American Climate Corps](#) to train young people in climate-facing jobs, including renewable energy jobs and jobs that improve the country's climate resilience efforts. The initiative hopes to put 20,000 young people to work after a paid training program. International efforts are also underway to decarbonize, as demonstrated by the annual COP (Conference of Parties) conventions which aim to foster a sense of collaboration around the issue on a global scale. In 2015, a monumental conference was held in Paris, where nearly every country in the world committed to the Paris Climate Agreement, where greenhouse gas emission reduction targets were set, laying the groundwork for significant climate action. The [COP 28](#) convention was recently held in Dubai, UAE, in December 2023, with many of the world's leading countries and delegates once again committing to reducing fossil fuel use.

Climate Action in Connecticut

Connecticut is actively combating climate change through a series of strategic measures. In 2019, Governor Lamont launched GreenerGov CT, an ambitious program aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, curbing water waste, and minimizing waste disposal at state facilities.

Additionally, the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) was re-established to focus on mitigation strategies, adaptation, and resilience, all while prioritizing equity and environmental justice. More recently, Executive Order 21-3 codified specific actions and sub-targets, reinforcing the state's commitment to sustainability and climate resilience.

Connecticut's action against climate change includes several key initiatives, which will be highlighted here:

Transportation Electrification: The state encourages the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by offering incentives such as rebates, grants for charging infrastructure, and tax exemptions. These efforts aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

Renewable Energy: Connecticut has ambitious goals for renewable energy adoption. Solar power installations are promoted through net metering programs, tax incentives, and streamlined permitting processes. Additionally, offshore wind projects are being developed to harness clean energy from the Atlantic Ocean.

Energy Efficiency: Prioritizing energy efficiency in buildings and infrastructure, programs like the Connecticut Green Bank provide financing options for energy-efficient upgrades, including insulation, efficient HVAC systems, and LED lighting.

Climate Resilience and Adaptation: Connecticut recognizes the need to adapt to changing climate conditions. Initiatives include coastal resilience planning, floodplain management, and protecting critical infrastructure from extreme weather events. By integrating these strategies, Connecticut aims to build a more sustainable and resilient future for its residents and the environment.

National Energy Efficiency Resources

American Council for an Energy-Efficiency Economy (ACEEE) – develops transformative policies to reduce energy waste and combat climate change.

Address: 529 14th Street NW, Ste. 600

Washington, DC 20045

Phone: (202)-507-4000

Website: aceee.org

Dashboard of State Incentives for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (DSIRE) – a website dedicated to finding programs that homeowners can benefit from in the realm of energy efficiency.

Website: <https://www.dsireusa.org/>

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – protects human health and the environment.

Website: epa.gov

Contact EPA: epa.gov/home/forms/contact-epa

National Energy Education Development (NEED) – trains and assists teachers in harnessing the energy of the classroom – the energy of students. Teaches students and teachers each year about energy.

Address: 8404 Kao Circle, Manassas, VA 20110

Phone: 1-800-875-5029 or 1-703-257-1117

Email: info@need.org

Website: need.org/educators

US Department of Energy (DOE) – The mission of the Energy Department is to ensure America’s security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions

- [Energy Saver Guide](#)
- [DIY Projects](#)
- [Find incentives and financing](#)
- [Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy](#)

National Housing Trust– Assists with every stage of a home energy project including planning, financing, installation, and management. The National Housing Trust Fund is a federally funded program that assists in the production and preservation of affordable housing with services for extremely low- and very low-income households, including homeless families, who, without the availability of integrated supports, might experience less stable tenancies.

Address: 1101 30th Street, NW Suite 100 A Washington, DC 20007

Phone: 202-333-8931

Email: nht@nhtinc.org

Website: nationalhousingtrust.org

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) -

provides no-cost energy audits and weatherization services for low-income homes. Find your local WAP agency [here](#).

About: energy.gov/eere/wap/about

How to Apply: energy.gov/eere/wap/how-apply

Connecticut Energy Efficiency Resources

Energize CT - Helps to connect individuals with easy ways to find custom energy savings in their own home

Website: <https://energizect.com/>

Phone: 888-855-2882

Email: CTRebates@resource-innovations.com

Save the Sound - An organization that works to maintain Connecticut's natural resources and ensures the state is protecting local communities and their ecosystems.

Address: 127 Church Street, 2nd Floor

New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: 203-787-0646

Email: info@savethesound.org

Website: www.savethesound.org/

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) -

CT DEEP is committed to conserving, improving, and protecting the natural resources and the environment of the state of Connecticut as well as making cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable energy available for the people and businesses throughout the state.

Website: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/About/About-Us

Connecticut Green Bank - The Green Bank supports the CT Governor's and Legislature's energy strategy to achieve cleaner, less expensive, and more reliable sources of energy while creating jobs and supporting local economic development. In 2021, the Green Bank's model was expanded to include new areas of environmental infrastructure related to climate adaptation and resilience, land conservation, parks and recreation, agriculture, water, waste and recycling, and environmental markets, including carbon offsets and ecosystem services.

Address: 700 Canal Street, Stamford, CT 06902

Phone Number: (860)-563-0015

Website: ctgreenbank.com/contact-us/

Connecticut Weatherization Assistance Program (CTWAP)– The Weatherization Assistance Program is funded by the US Department of Energy, and assists low-income persons to minimize energy-related costs and fuel usage in their homes through retrofits and home improvement measures. In Connecticut, the program is administered by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) in partnership with the Connecticut Community Action Agency network. Local Community Action Agencies qualify households and coordinate services. DEEP provides overall program management and technical assistance.

Website: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Energy/Weatherization

Energy Efficiency Fund– The Energy Efficiency Fund supports a variety of programs that provide financial incentives to help Connecticut consumers reduce the amount of energy used in their homes and businesses. Energy Efficiency Fund programs are reviewed by the Energy Efficiency Board, a group of advisors who utilize their experience and expertise with energy issues to evaluate and consult with Connecticut's electric and natural gas utility companies on how programs should best be structured for and delivered to Connecticut consumers

Website: energizect.com/about

EVConnecticut – EVConnecticut provides easy to understand information for consumers, businesses and government entities to aid in the introduction of more electric vehicles into Connecticut. Connecticut's cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy future depends on electric vehicles putting us on a path toward greater energy independence.

Website: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Air

Evaluate CT– Through Atlas Policy group is a public dashboard that provides data and information on EV adoption and charging throughout the state of Connecticut and provides a close look at how the state is responding to incentives and programs aimed at supporting Climate Action change

Address; 1201 Connecticut Ave, Washington DC, 20036

Email: info@atlaspolicy.com

Website: atlaspolicy.com

Greener Gov – GreenerGov CT sets out a bold set of goals for state agencies for the next decade to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, curb wasteful water use, and reduce the amount of waste disposed of at state facilities.

Website: portal.ct.gov/greenergov

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven– Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven strengthens neighborhoods by developing affordable housing and increasing homeownership opportunities; providing homebuyer education and financial coaching; making homes safe, beautiful, and energy-efficient; and working to improve the perceptions of the communities in which we are working by helping residents take charge of their neighborhoods. Contact: Director, Community Building and Organizing

Address: 333 Sherman Ave, New Haven, CT, 06511

Phone: (203)-773-9272

Website: nhsofnewhaven.org/contact/

Hartford Housing Authority– It is the mission of The Housing Authority of the City of Hartford (HACH) to be a fiscally sound agency that provides safe, decent and affordable high-quality housing and homeownership choices. HACH strives to be a positive catalyst for the creation of economic opportunities and independence in diverse communities.

Address: 180 John D Wardlaw Way, Hartford, CT 06106

Phone Number: 860-723-8400

Website: hartfordhousing.org/

Sustainable CT– The mission of Sustainable CT is to foster inclusive, resilient, and vibrant Connecticut municipalities that provide opportunities for all to thrive by: providing a menu of sustainability actions that build local economies, support equity, and respect the finite capacity of the environment; offering technical assistance to help advance sustainability initiatives; and recognizing and certifying municipalities for their achievements.

Phone Number: (860)-253-2969

Email: info@sustainablect.org

Website: sustainablect.org/about/contact-us

Tips for Saving Energy and Money in Your Home Year Round

In Connecticut, we experience all four seasons— harsh winters, muddy springs, hot summers, and crisp falls. However, because of climate change, we are experiencing even more extreme weather patterns each year. Extreme and unpredictable weather means that Mass residents must adapt to many different kinds of conditions and temperatures to stay comfortable and save energy and money in their homes.

In the following section, you will find some do-it-yourself tips to maximize energy efficiency and cost savings during both the warm and cold months of the year.

Warm Weather Energy Saving Tips

Fan Yourself

Fans are more energy and cost-efficient than air conditioning (AC). Just remember to turn off the fans when you're not in the room. They aren't intended to cool the space— just the people in the space via the wind chill effect.

Optimize Your Thermostat

If you opt for air conditioning (AC), the US Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78°F in the summer to save up to 10% in energy costs each year. For every degree you raise your thermostat above 72 degrees, you can save up to 3% of your cooling expenses. Also, consider setting your thermostat to a higher, less energy-intensive temperature while you're not home. Make sure you get routine maintenance checks of your AC; [50%](#) of system failures associated with AC units are due to a lack of maintenance.

Monitor Water Usage

In the summer, water usage increases— whether it's watering your lawn or taking more showers. You can keep usage down and save money by:

- Getting a rain barrel to collect water for your garden or lawn.
- Watering grass and plants in the early morning or at dusk so the water doesn't evaporate in the summer heat.
- Installing "low-flow" water fixtures, such as shower heads, toilets, and outdoor sprinklers.
- Taking cool showers and washing dishes with cold water.

Close the Blinds & Check Seals

Using a fan isn't the only way to keep your home cooler in the hot summer months. Take a quick walk around the house and close all the blinds and curtains during the day. This will keep your rooms from heating up and make spaces easier to cool with an air conditioner or fan. At night, you can open the windows to let in the cooler air. You can also add weather stripping to your doors and windows to better insulate your home.

Cold Weather Energy Saving Tips

Rock Your Winter Wardrobe Indoors

Layer up and stay bundled around the house in your winter best. [You can save 5%](#) for every degree you drop your thermostat between 60–70 degrees, so slip on your coziest sweatshirt and some fuzzy socks to let your clothes do the warming.

Decrease the Heat

Turn your thermostat to 58 degrees when you leave your home or before you go to bed in the winter months. According to the US Dept. of Energy, turning the heat down by 7 to 10 degrees for an 8-hour period at night or when you are at work can cut your heating bill by 10%. Do not turn off your heat completely though, as your pipes could become frozen. Conversely, if your home gets too hot, condensed air can negatively impact wood products such as flooring.

Let The Sunshine In Take advantage of the world's best furnace— the sun! Naturally heat your home by drawing the curtains of south-facing windows during the day to let the sunshine in. You'll save money on your heating bill and get to appreciate the wintery backdrop.

Tips to Follow Rain or Shine All Year Round!

Swap Out Old Light Bulbs With LEDs Not only are LED bulbs **83%** more energy efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs, but they also cost \$1.19 annually compared to the \$7.01 annual cost of incandescent bulbs. LED lights also contain less toxic chemicals like mercury.

Wash Your Clothes with Cold Water and Minimize Loads

Washing your clothes with cold water could save you up to **\$200** annually! Also, try to air dry your clothes instead of using a dryer and do **BIG** loads of laundry. Doing one load of laundry has the same carbon footprint as leaving an LED light on for 13 days straight.

Eliminate Phantom Loads/Energy Vampires

[Energy vampires](#) or Phantom Loads are appliances or plugged-in devices that draw energy even when not in use, usually by being in “standby” mode. Vampire energy can account for up to 10% of your monthly energy bill! The best way to avoid phantom loads is to plug energy vampires into power strips that can be turned off when not in use. Common appliances that are energy vampires include:

- Phone chargers
- Desktop computers
- Stereos and TVs
- Coffee makers
- Microwaves,
- Video game consoles
- Satellite & cable boxes
- Printers

Turn off the Lights

Turn off the lights and other electronics when not in use --it’s such a simple way to help the planet!

Follow the “Three R’s” – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

When following the “Three R’s,” reducing your consumption of energy, for example, is the best option. If you are unable to reduce the action you are participating in, the next best options are to reuse, then recycle. You can also implement these guidelines in many other daily habits such as reducing food waste by composting, reusing water bottles, and recycling appropriate materials from your residence.

Energy Saving Tips

- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
- When home, turn down the heat to 68° or as low as comfortable.
- When you are asleep or away from home, turn the thermostat back 7° to 10° for eight hours and save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.
- Consider changing to a programmable thermostat.
- Turn down the temperature of your hot water heater to 120°.
- Have your oil-fired heating system serviced annually or your gas-fired heating system serviced every three years.
- Clean or replace furnace filters every other month.

- Keep the fireplace flue damper closed unless a fire is burning.
- Check that warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators are not blocked by furniture or drapes.
- During the winter heating season, close your curtains and shades at night; open them during the day.

Glossary

The Climate Crisis	The urgent and escalating global environmental challenge characterized by significant and adverse changes in climate patterns. It is primarily driven by human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes, leading to increased concentrations of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere and resulting in long-term changes in temperature, weather patterns, and sea levels.
Energy Burden	Energy Burden is the proportion of a household's income that is spent on energy-related expenses, including electricity, heating, and cooling. A high energy burden indicates that a significant portion of a household's income is allocated to meeting energy needs, potentially leading to financial strain.
Energy Efficiency	Energy Efficiency refers to the use of less energy to provide the same level of performance or output. It involves adopting technologies, practices, and systems that minimize energy waste and enhance the overall effectiveness of energy use, contributing to reduced energy consumption and environmental impact.
Greenhouse Gasses	Greenhouse Gasses are atmospheric gasses that trap heat, leading to the greenhouse effect and the warming of the Earth's surface. Common greenhouse gasses include carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), and fluorinated gasses. Human activities, such as burning fossil fuels and deforestation, significantly contribute to the increased concentrations of these gasses, contributing to climate change.
Inflation Reduction Act	The Inflation Reduction Act is a legislative measure designed to address and mitigate the impacts of inflation on the economy. It may include policies and strategies aimed at controlling inflation, stabilizing prices, and promoting economic growth while minimizing adverse effects on consumers and businesses.
Phantom Loads	Phantom loads refer to the energy consumed by devices when they are off or in standby mode.
Rebate	A Rebate is a partial refund or discount on a product or service. In the context of energy, rebates are often provided by governments or utility companies to incentivize individuals or businesses to adopt energy-efficient technologies or practices. These financial incentives help offset the initial costs of implementing energy-efficient measures.
Weatherization	Weatherization involves making structural and operational improvements to a building or home to enhance its resistance to the impacts of weather conditions. This may include insulation, sealing gaps and cracks, upgrading

windows and doors, and other measures aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption for heating and cooling. Weatherization initiatives contribute to both cost savings for individuals and a reduction in overall energy demand