



Energy- Efficiency Tips

Residential
Customers



This energy-efficiency tips brochure was developed to help you better manage your home's energy costs. To get you started, Tampa Electric recommends that you complete a free Energy Audit. An Energy Audit is designed to identify where and how your home may be wasting valuable energy. When you take advantage of our recommendations, it can be a great way to save on your annual energy costs. The free Energy Audit is available in three formats:

- **Online Energy Audit** - Visit tampaelectric.com/save to complete your audit over the Internet – it's fast, safe and easy.
- **Phone Assisted Audit** - Call the number for your area on the back of this brochure and follow our automated phone system's prompts.
- **In-Home Energy Audit** - Schedule an appointment online or by phone for a Tampa Electric energy analyst to inspect your home to find ways it may be losing energy.

Tampa Electric's commitment to helping residential and commercial customers save energy dates back to 1979, well ahead of any state or federal requirements. Since that time, customer participation in these programs (which have been recently expanded and enhanced) has helped offset the need to generate power sufficient to serve more than 630,000 homes for one year.

Heating and Cooling

- Service heating and cooling systems annually and adjust for maximum efficiency.
- Turn thermostat off when home is unoccupied for four hours or more.
- Have your duct system sealed.
- Replace central air conditioner with a more efficient unit.
- Set thermostats at 78 degrees Fahrenheit in summer and 68 degrees Fahrenheit in winter.

- Run ceiling fans at low speeds, and set them to rotate clockwise in winter.
- Change filters monthly and make sure they are installed facing the correct direction (look for directional arrows on the side of the filter).
- Close fireplace dampers.
- Close shades and drapes at night to keep heat inside during the winter.
- Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat outside during summer.
- Ensure attic access door closes tightly when located within an air conditioned area.
- Ensure windows and doors are properly weather-stripped.

Tampa Electric's **Heating and Cooling program** allows you to earn rebates for replacing your old, inefficient air conditioning system with a new, energy-efficient heat pump that meets our energy-saving standards. This program is available to all residential customers.

Water Heating

- Install heat recovery water heating and save 35 percent to 55 percent on water heating costs with a central air conditioner.
- Lower nighttime thermostat at least 10 degrees for 8 to 10 hours and save 10 percent to 20 percent on heating costs.
- Install flow-restricting devices in showers and faucets.
- Lower water heater thermostat settings to 120 degrees, 140 degrees for a dishwasher.
- Install an insulated water-heater wrap.
- Replace your water heater with a heat pump system.
- Turn off your water heater when your home is vacant for two or more days.
- Drain your water heater and flush sediment out of the tank each year.

- Insulate exposed hot water lines.
- Limit shower length to five to seven minutes.
- Fix dripping faucets.

Laundry

- Wash clothes in cold water.
- Do only full laundry loads or adjust water level accordingly.
- Clean your dryer's lint trap before each load.
- Make sure that the outdoor dryer exhaust door closes when the dryer is off.
- Verify dryer vent hose is tightly connected to inside wall fitting.
- Make sure your dryer's vent hose is not kinked or clogged.

Kitchen

- Fix damaged refrigerator door seals.
- Replace old appliances with high-efficiency models.
- Clean refrigerator coils.
- Switch you refrigerator's power-saver to "ON," if available.
- Set refrigerator temperature to 34 to 37 degrees Fahrenheit and freezer temperature to zero to five degrees Fahrenheit.
- Unplug unused refrigerators or freezers.
- Use a microwave for cooking when possible.
- Let hot food cool before storing it in a refrigerator.
- Only run the dishwasher when fully loaded.

(Continued on reverse)



(Energy-Efficiency Tips, continued)

Lighting

- Replace standard incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- Turn off unnecessary lighting.
- Install automatic timers on indoor and outdoor lighting.

Miscellaneous

- Seal leaks in your attic, basement, fireplace and around electrical outlets.
- Shade windows or install reflective materials to windows.
- Caulk and/or weather-strip windows and doors.
- Insulate walls, ceilings, and crawl spaces that are opposite unconditioned areas.
- Turn computers and monitors off when not in use (or set power-save options).
- Turn off TVs, radios and stereos when not in use.
- Turn off pool pumps and/or heater when not needed and adjust timer to operate 8-10 hours in summer and 6-8 hours in winter.
- Insulate electric wall plugs and wall switches with foam pads.
- Caulk along baseboards with sealant.
- Ensure all new appliances you purchase are approved by Energy Star, a U.S. government program that encourages energy savings through the use of efficient appliances. Visit **energystar.gov** for more information.

Tampa Electric offers rebates for implementing stand-alone measures that can add to the comfort of your home and decrease energy costs. Stand-alone measures include ceiling and wall insulation and window replacement.

With Tampa Electric's **Energy PlannerSM program**, a programmable thermostat lets you control the operation of central heating and cooling systems, electric water heaters and pool pumps to take advantage of four varying prices for electricity – including two prices that are lower than most residential customers pay today. Signing up for the program is free. To learn more about Energy Planner and Tampa Electric's other energy-saving programs, visit **tampaelectric.com/save**.

To reach a Tampa Electric energy expert, call **813-275-3909**.

Actual savings listed in this brochure will vary from household to household.



tampaelectric.com



This paper contains post consumer recycled fiber and is SFI and FSC certified.