

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

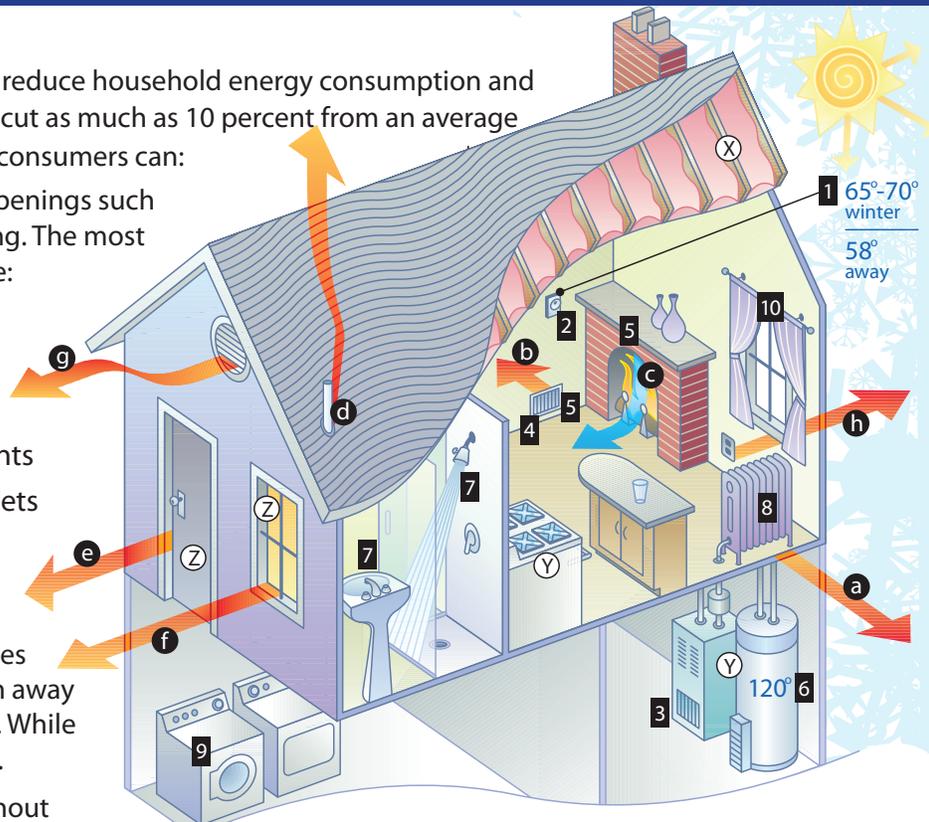
Using energy wisely and taking the time to make small adjustments will make a big difference in how much natural gas you use and how much you spend on your natural gas bill. Below are a few tips to help you conserve energy and save money.

KEEP THE COLD OUT

Consumers can take easy, inexpensive steps to reduce household energy consumption and minimize energy loss. Reducing air leaks could cut as much as 10 percent from an average household's monthly energy bill. For example, consumers can:

Seal leaks around doors, windows, and other openings such as pipes or ducts with caulk or weather-stripping. The most common places where air escapes in homes are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a floors, walls, ceilings | e doors |
| b ducts | f windows |
| c fireplaces | g fans and vents |
| d plumbing penetrations | h electric outlets |



USING ENERGY WISELY

- 1** Set thermostats between 65 and 70 degrees during the winter, and at 58 degrees when away from the house for more than a few hours. While sleeping, add an extra blanket for warmth.
- 2** Turn down thermostats automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing a smart programmable thermostat. Charlottesville Utilities offers up to a \$100 rebate to cover the cost of a programmable thermostat or any expense incurred from installation.
- 3** Change or clean furnace filters once a month during the heating season. Furnaces consume less energy if they "breathe" more easily.
- 4** Warm air rises, so use registers to direct warm air-flow across the floor.
- 5** Close vents and doors in unused rooms and close dampers on unused fireplaces.
- 6** Set water heater temperatures at 120 degrees. Turning down the unit's thermostat to 120 degrees can help you save money since water heating is a typical family's third-largest energy expense, accounting for about 14 percent of utility bills.
- 7** Install water-flow restrictors in shower heads and faucets.
- 8** If radiators are located near cold walls, place a sheet of aluminum foil between the radiator and the wall to reflect heat back into the room.
- 9** Run washing machines and clothes dryers with a full load.
- 10** On sunny days, open drapes and blinds to let in the sun's warmth. Close them at night to insulate against cold air outside.

PLAN FOR LONG-TERM ENERGY-EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

- (X)** Check to see if the attic and basement have the recommended insulation levels. Charlottesville Utilities offers a rebate up to \$300 when you have a licensed contractor add insulation to your home's attic.
- (Y)** Check the heating system and replace old, outdated appliances with high-efficiency models. When buying new appliances, compare energy efficiency ratings and annual operating costs.
- (Z)** Install storm or thermal windows and doors or double-paned glass. A less expensive alternative is plastic sheeting, which can be temporarily fastened over doors and windows to prevent drafts and retain heat.