



# CCS Energy and Water Management Program Summer 2022 Focus

## PUT NUMBERS TO YOUR ACTIONS AND CALCULATE YOUR SAVINGS AT HOME!

This summer you can refocus on saving energy and water at home. First make sure all your great energy and water saving actions are still being done and then do an energy and water audit to see how much your actions are saving you!



### SUMMER ENERGY AND WATER SAVING TIPS

**Don't leave the water running:** When you're brushing your teeth, try not to keep the water running the whole time. Also, make sure you turn the faucet all the way off when you're done to keep it from dripping.

**Plants need water, too:** If you have leftover water in your glass, don't dump it down the drain- use it to water your household plants.

**Unplug it:** After you finish using an electronic, remember to unplug it if you do not need to charge the device. Electronics still pull energy even when left plugged in and turned off.

## ENERGY AND WATER SAVING HOME AUDIT

Think you have what it takes to be an energy and water detective? Put your skills to the test with this home energy and water audit! Check each room in your house to see what actions you can do to save energy and water.



### WHAT IS AN ENERGY AND WATER AUDIT?

An audit helps you keep track of energy and water in your home, school, or other buildings. To perform an audit, you look for things in your home that use energy and water, then calculate the energy and water usage. Audits can help you find things in your home that need to be changed or you need to interact with them differently to save energy and water.

### GO THE EXTRA MILE! HOW MUCH WATER IS YOUR HOME REALLY USING?

- If your home gets a water bill from the City of Charlottesville each month, ask your parent or guardian to help you **track how much water you've saved** since last year.
- Don't have a water bill? **Check Out this Water Calculator:** <https://home-water-works.org/calculator>
- Look at the "Usage" to **see how much water you've used in the month** [Hint: One cubic foot (Cu. Ft.) is equal to 7.48 gallons of water!]. Check out the **"Monthly Usage" section in the bottom left** to see how this month's usage compares to last month and even last year. Hopefully if you keep working on these water saving actions, **you will see your monthly usage go down** over time.
- You can do the **same exercise with natural gas** (should be on your water bill if you have natural gas in your house) **and electricity** (you will need to go to your electricity provider for the bill- most likely from Dominion).

# Energy and Water Saving Home Audit

Use the checklist to see how many energy and water saving actions you've completed in your home. Try to check off as many boxes as you can throughout the day!

## ALL ROOMS

- Window check: make sure your windows are closed in every room if it's hot outside and the AC is turned on.
- If you have windows in a room, try keeping the lights off during the day and use the light from sun instead.
- If you have plants in any of your rooms, you can give them your leftover drinking water instead of pouring it down the drain.
- Is the light on in the room? Make sure you turn the lights off when you leave the room to save energy!
- Did you unplug your chargers (phone, laptop, etc.) when you're not using them?

## KITCHEN

- Double check to make sure the fridge door is closed.
- When you get a snack, do you think about what you want to eat before opening the fridge? Try to decide what you want before opening the fridge, so you don't let out the cold air!
- Check the kitchen sink faucet for drips. Is the faucet still dripping after you turn it off? That means you've found a leak! Tell your parent or guardian that the sink needs to be fixed.
- Is the dishwasher full? When it is full, it is the most water efficient time to run the dishwasher, and not when it is partially full or hand washing.

## BATHROOM

- Check the bathroom sink faucet for dripping water. Is the faucet still dripping after you turn it off? That means you've found a leak! Tell your parent or guardian that the sink needs to be fixed.
- Did you turn off the water while brushing your teeth?
- Get your timer ready, time to take a 5-minute shower!
- Time to do the toilet test! (See Instructions Below)

## OUTSIDE

- If you have a garden hose in your backyard, check for leaks! If you see dripping water, make sure you tell your parent or guardian.
- If it's a nice sunny day, ask your parents to hang the laundry to dry outside or in the laundry room instead of using the dryer.
- Put out a rain gauge or rainwater collector. After it rains, check to see if you got 0.5 to 1 inch of water, and if you do skip watering the grass or plants for the week.
- Do you have a garden or grass that needs watering? Only water in the morning or evening when the sun is low to prevent the water from evaporating in the high heat.

**Energy & Water Junior Detective**   
1-7 Boxes Checked

**Energy & Water Senior Detective**   
8-12 Boxes Checked

**Energy & Water #1 Special Investigator**   
13-17 Boxes Checked

If you want to get the Senior Detective silver badge, go back and see which boxes you're missing. There's always a chance to get more points!

If you want to get the #1 Special Investigator gold badge, go back and see which boxes you're missing. There's always a chance to get more points!

Great job and keep up the great work! Staying #1 means keeping up on your energy and water saving behaviors.





# Energy & Water Audit Word Search

Words can go in any direction, words can share a letter as they cross over each other.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | E | T | E | C | P | T | N | L | N | A | T | Y | E |
| G | E | L | E | W | A | U | M | N | U | L | T | T | U |
| L | E | I | I | N | T | O | I | L | E | T | C | I | L |
| E | N | G | A | N | G | U | L | P | N | U | U | C | W |
| A | T | H | G | I | Y | E | U | T | T | A | B | I | A |
| K | N | T | U | L | F | A | U | C | E | T | I | R | T |
| A | E | C | N | T | I | G | R | T | S | C | C | T | E |
| B | F | R | I | D | G | E | R | A | T | T | F | C | R |
| E | P | R | E | L | C | I | F | E | S | U | E | E | R |
| R | S | A | G | L | A | R | U | T | A | N | E | L | T |
| E | N | E | R | G | Y | F | E | F | E | L | T | E | E |
| L | C | T | B | C | L | P | A | R | E | T | E | M | E |
| L | T | I | T | L | E | D | U | G | N | T | N | T | T |
| E | T | T | L | E | A | U | D | I | T | A | E | Y | T |

- UNPLUG
- CUBIC FEET
- FRIDGE
- LIGHT
- LED
- ENERGY
- FAUCET
- AUDIT
- METER
- TOILET
- LEAK
- NATURAL GAS
- ELECTRICITY
- WATER

## USE THE WORDS FROM THE WORD SEARCH ABOVE TO FILL IN THE BLANKS OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:

- 1) Luisa works in a restaurant, and she wants to know how much energy her building uses during the cold winter months. She should do an energy \_\_\_\_\_ to find out!
- 2) Aidan is worried that his water bill will be too high this month. He should check his water \_\_\_\_\_ to see how much water he has used so far this month.
- 3) Mirella always remembers to flip the \_\_\_\_\_ switch when she leaves a room to help save \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 4) Anna hears a dripping noise in the bathroom. She checks the sink \_\_\_\_\_ and finds a water \_\_\_\_\_ !
- 5) Jamal's dog always comes running to the kitchen to beg for food when he opens the \_\_\_\_\_ , and Jamal makes sure to not let the cold air escape by closing the door quickly.
- 6) After charging their laptop, Ezra always makes sure to \_\_\_\_\_ the laptop once it is fully charged to save energy.