

Simple Things

12 low-cost actions to lower your energy costs

- Turn down the thermostat in winter and turn it up in summer. Free.
- Install programmable thermostats to automatically reduce the heat or air conditioning when the building is not in use. Payback: 6 months.
- Place signs on lights, thermostats, doors, and windows (reminding members to turn them off, down, up or closed!) Free.
- Replace light bulbs: use compact fluorescent lights instead of incandescents (payback: 9 months); tubular fluorescent T-8 lights instead of T-12s (payback: 3 years); LED's instead of regular bulbs in exit signs (payback: 1 year).
- Unplug equipment when not in use or turn off the power strip and turn it off. Free.
- Seal air leaks (weather stripping; door sweeps; holes; outlets). Payback: 1 year.
- Turn off lights when not in use or install motion sensors. Payback: 1 year.
- Reduce water heater temperature to 95 degrees. Free.
- Turn gas pilot lights off in summer. Free.
- Install faucet flow restrictors. Payback: 1 year.
- Reduce solid waste (reuse mugs; recycle; compost). Free.
- Regular maintenance for boiler and furnace. Payback: 1 year.