

DID YOU KNOW?

There are many ways to improve your home's energy efficiency. You can invest in the latest energy-efficient technologies and products, make basic home improvements and practice the energy-saving tips listed on the back of this brochure. To make your entire home more energy-efficient, you should consider one of the **New York Energy SmartSM** programs.

DO YOU OWN A HOME?

Take advantage of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR[®] Program. This program is designed to provide New Yorker's with a "one-stop" shopping experience when making energy efficiency improvements. A Building Performance Institute (BPI)-certified home performance contractor will perform a comprehensive assessment of your home. Using this assessment, the contractor will develop a work scope of eligible energy efficiency measures for your home and perform the work you choose to have done. Low-interest financing is available through the program. Income-eligible homeowners may qualify for additional financial incentives.

LOOKING TO BUILD A NEW HOME?

Any new home can be built to the New York ENERGY STAR[®] standard. New York ENERGY STAR[®]-labeled homes use less energy than conventionally built new homes, and are more comfortable and healthier.

ARE YOU BUYING NEW APPLIANCES?

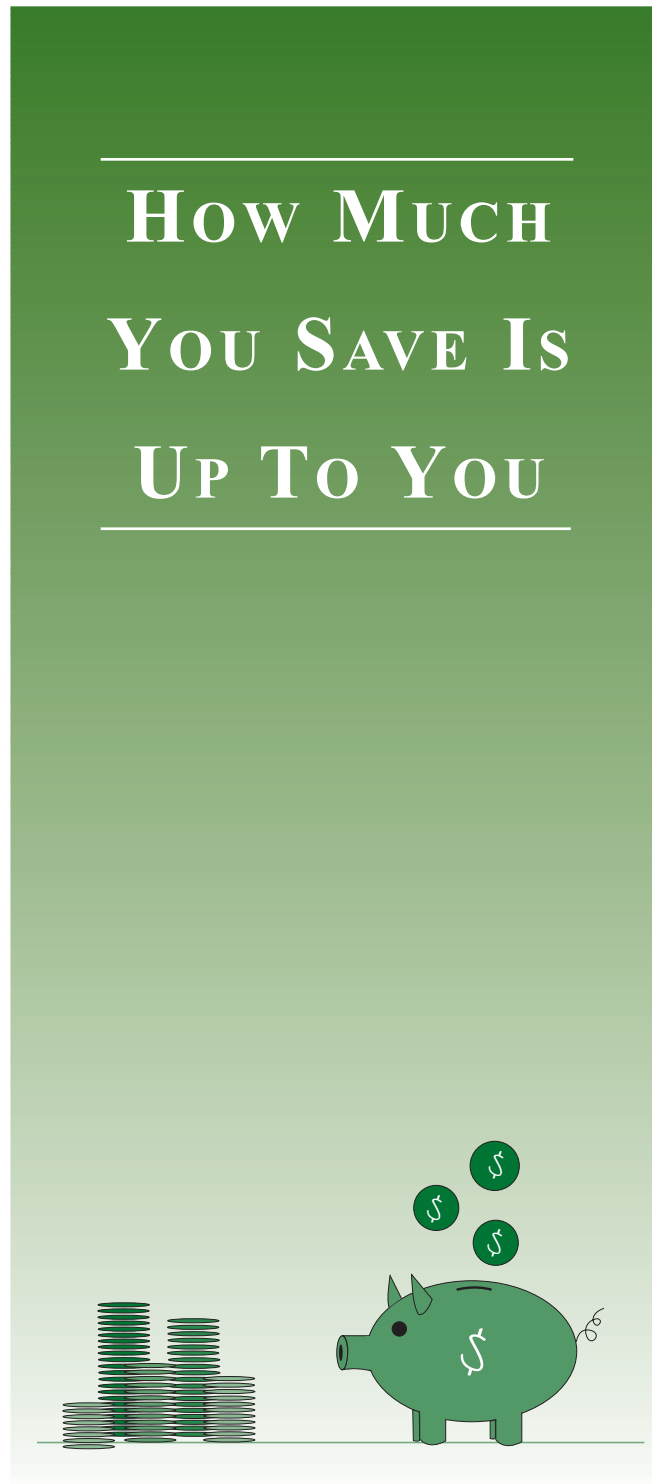
When it's time to buy, look for the ENERGY STAR[®] label, the symbol for energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR[®] products and appliances meet or exceed federal energy efficiency standards and can be found on refrigerators, clothes washers, computers, dishwashers, room air conditioners, TV's, VCR's, dehumidifiers, lighting fixtures and bulbs, and ceiling fans.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at: www.GetEnergySmart.org or call 1-877-NY-SMART.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399



Energy-Saving Habits are Always in Season

JANUARY

Keep Warm

- Turn your thermostat down when you're away from home for more than four hours and at night to sleep. To save even more, install a programmable thermostat. Keep it at 66-68°F when you're home.
- Don't cover heat registers and cold air returns with furniture and rugs.
- Close fireplace dampers when not in use.
- Avoid pre-heating your oven for more than 10 minutes and resist peeking into the oven. Every time you open the oven door, you lose roughly 25°F.

FEBRUARY

Bath

- Use your exhaust fans appropriately. In just one hour they can remove a houseful of warmed or cooled air.
- Repair all leaky faucets. One drop per second can waste as much as 10 gallons of water in a week. If the water is hot, you lose not only the water but also the energy used to heat the water.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucets. It could reduce your water use by up to 50%.

MARCH

Home Office

- If you have ENERGY STAR®-labeled office equipment (computer, fax, printer, scanner), remember to activate the sleep function. In a small office, ENERGY STAR® equipment can save about \$470 per year.
- Install motion detectors so that lights are on only when you need them. Encourage your employer to do the same.
- Use desk or table lamps instead of overhead lights.
- Change furnace filters according to manufacturer's recommendations.

APRIL

Spring Cleaning

- Clean under and behind your refrigerator to improve its efficiency. Vacuum around the coils periodically.
- Bleed the air out of your radiators twice a year.
- Get rid of your stand-alone freezer if it's empty most of the time.
- Each degree above 75°F that you set your air conditioner's thermostat saves you 3% of the energy used to cool your home.

MAY

Laundry

- Did you know that 90% of the energy used for washing clothes goes to heating the water? Try to use cold water for washing needs.
- Always wash and dry full loads. Don't over-dry clothes in the dryer.
- Whenever possible, hang your laundry outdoors to dry.
- Set your hot water heater to 120° F. Turn off your water heater when you're on vacation. Use a water heater blanket to insulate the tank.

JUNE

Kitchen

- Set your refrigerator at 36-38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
- Did you know that ENERGY STAR® dishwashers are at least 25% more efficient than standard models? They also save water as well, 1,200 gallons a year – that's six times the amount of water the average person drinks in a year.
- Only run your dishwasher when full. Use the energy-saver switch or air dry your dishes.

JULY

Keep Cool

- Keep your shades down and the drapes drawn during the hottest time of the day and open at night. Change the filter or clean your air conditioner according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- When possible, shut off the air conditioner and open the windows at night or install an ENERGY STAR® ceiling fan.
- Be sure your outside air conditioning condenser is shaded from the sun.
- When purchasing a room air conditioner, buy the correct size. Retailers can help you with sizing. Always purchase an ENERGY STAR® model.

AUGUST

Back to School

- Compact fluorescent lamps are a safe alternative for halogen torchieres, which are banned on most campuses.
- Many home electronics use electricity even when they are off. Use a power strip to turn them on and off.
- If you only use your spare refrigerator for occasional parties, consider getting rid of it and using a cooler instead.
- Always buy ENERGY STAR® products when shopping for back-to-school items. Lighting and electronics, such as computers, radios, and TV's are available with this label.

SEPTEMBER

Furnace

- Change furnace filters according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Have your gas-fired furnace cleaned every two years – oil-fired furnaces yearly.
- If your heating system is more than 10 years old, replacing it with an ENERGY STAR® unit could save up to 30% in energy costs per year.

OCTOBER

Fall

- Remove air conditioners in the fall or install a quality cover.
- Upgrading the insulation in the attic and walls will reduce energy costs. Schedule a Home Performance assessment. Call 1-877-NY-SMART for more info.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around doors and windows.

NOVEMBER

Refrigerator

- Did you know that a refrigerator produced in 1990 uses twice as much electricity to operate as an ENERGY STAR® model? Consider replacing it.
- Locate your refrigerator in a cool spot with good air circulation and away from heat sources like direct sunlight, kitchen range, and heating vents. Vacuum around the refrigerator coils periodically.

DECEMBER

Lighting

- If every household in New York switched five bulbs to ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent bulbs, it could save \$432 million in electric costs and greenhouse gas emissions reductions - the equivalent of taking 340,000 cars off the road.
- Consider energy efficiency in interior design by painting walls and ceilings light colors, which reflect rather than absorb light, thus reducing the need for extra lighting.
- Turn off unused lights, electronics, and appliances when you leave a room. Install programmable timers.