



# Energy savings checklist for your home

FACT SHEET

1 OF 2



APARTMENT & CONDO EFFICIENCY SERVICES



ENERGY STAR PRODUCTS



HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR



WISCONSIN ENERGY STAR HOMES

Understanding where and how energy is used in your home can help you make smart decisions that will increase comfort, reduce operating costs, boost the value of your home and help protect the environment.

Heating your home accounts for the largest portion of your utility bill. Other energy uses such as air conditioning, water heating, dehumidification, refrigeration, cooking and lighting also add up.

You can tackle these energy costs by making energy efficiency improvements to your whole house. The following checklist will help you increase comfort, reduce energy consumption and save money.

For more information call 800.762.7077 or visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com)

**Ninety percent of Wisconsin homes have at least one energy efficiency measure that would be cost effective in energy savings within ten years.**

**Seal leaky pathways before insulating your attic.** During construction, openings are made in the attic for plumbing, wiring and chimneys. Seal these openings to keep heat and moisture out of the attic and avoid wasted energy and structural damage from ice dams and condensation.

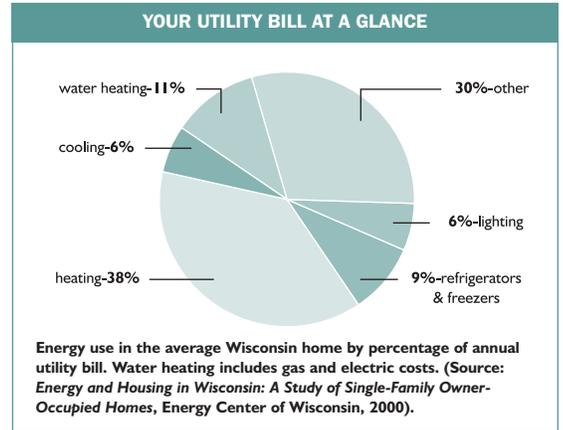
Consider hiring a trained consultant partnering with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® for assistance by contacting Focus on Energy at 800.762.7077 or visiting [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

For more information, download the fact sheet [Preventing Ice Dams](#) from [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

**Insulate your walls and attic.** Insulation is a very cost effective way to save energy in your home. It keeps your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer by slowing heat transfer. Insulation and air sealing also helps to screen out noise and keep water pipes from freezing. Insulate attic areas to at least R-38. For a major impact on heating and cooling bills and comfort, insulate above-grade walls by filling wall cavities completely. If you are replacing your siding, consider adding insulation underneath the new siding.

For more information, download the fact sheet [The Basics of Insulating Your Home](#) from [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

**Install an ENERGY STAR qualified furnace.** A high efficiency furnace makes sense for Wisconsin's long winters. Choose one with an annual fuel utilization efficiency



## HEATING AND COOLING

(AFUE) of at least 90 percent—the choice of more than eight out of ten Wisconsin consumers. By selecting ENERGY STAR, you're assured that the furnace has an AFUE of 90 percent or greater.

Furnaces can be big electricity users as well. Consider a multi-stage furnace with a variable speed ECM (electronically commutated) fan motor; these furnaces are much quieter and operate most of the time on no more electricity than a light bulb. If you run your furnace fan continuously to filter the air or even out temperatures around the house, you can expect to save \$250 or more per year with an ECM furnace.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Basics of Home Heating](#) from [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

**Choose an ENERGY STAR qualified central air conditioner to cool and dehumidify your whole house.** ENERGY STAR qualified central air conditioners have a higher seasonal efficiency rating (SEER) than standard models, making them about 20 percent more efficient. Ask a professional to calculate the right size unit for your home, ensure adequate airflow across the cooling coil, and test for proper refrigerant charge. Place the outside unit (condenser) where it is protected from direct sunlight, vegetation, rain and snow.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Cooling Basics for Your Home](#) from [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).



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The power is within you.

## HEATING AND COOLING—CONTINUED

### Monitor your thermostat.

Set it five degrees lower (or higher in summer) at night and when the house is unoccupied. For convenience, install a programmable thermostat. ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostats offer two separate programs (to address the different comfort needs of weekdays and weekends) and four or more temperature settings for each day.

## WATER HEATING

### Choose a high efficiency, natural gas water heater.

If you have an electric water heater or an old gas water heater, consider replacing it with a gas water heater that is power vented and has an Energy Factor (EF) of at least .61. If by replacing your water heater you no longer use your chimney, close it for even greater energy savings.

Set the water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to save energy and reduce the risk of scalding. Also, fix leaky faucets and install low-flow showerheads.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Energy Efficient Water Heaters](#) from focusonenergy.com.

## APPLIANCES

**Look for the ENERGY STAR label** when shopping for new appliances, electronics and lighting products. Compared to standard models, ENERGY STAR qualified appliances save energy and money and are better for the environment.

**Replace a refrigerator purchased before 1990**, the year the federal government mandated higher efficiency standards. ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators are the most efficient.

**Save energy with a modern gas range** equipped with an electronic or thermal ignitor rather than a standing pilot light.

**Choose a gas clothes dryer**, which costs less to operate than an electric model. The cost of drying a typical load of laundry in a gas dryer is 15 cents to 20 cents compared to 30 cents to 40 cents in an electric dryer.

**Purchase an ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washer** and use 50 percent less energy and 35 percent to 50 percent less water per load.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Energy Efficient Clothes Washers](#) from focusonenergy.com.

**Choose a dishwasher with energy-saving features** such as a built-in booster heater, energy-saving wash cycle, and air-dry option. Run your dishwasher only when full. An ENERGY STAR qualified dishwasher uses 25 percent less energy primarily by using less hot water.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Choosing Efficient Refrigerators and Dishwashers](#) from focusonenergy.com.

**Unplug appliances with “phantom loads”**—appliances that use power even when turned off—such as televisions, stereos and appliances with block-shaped transformer plugs (radios, cordless tools and computer speakers).

For more information, download the fact sheet [Reducing Appliance Energy Use](#) from focusonenergy.com.

## LIGHTING

**Install ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs** in lamps and fixtures that are on for three or more hours per day.

High-use lighting can be found in kitchens, living rooms, recreation rooms and outdoor fixtures. These bulbs use 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs.

For more information, download the fact sheet [Energy Efficient Home Lighting](#) from focusonenergy.com.

**LEARN MORE**  
[focusonenergy.com](#)

Contact Focus to learn more about smart energy choices.

[energystar.gov](#)

The ENERGY STAR program provides information on energy efficient products that meet ENERGY STAR standards.

[www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo](#)

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) offers a wealth of home energy tips.

