

ENERGY SMART “DO-IT-YOURSELF” CHECKLIST

There are many easy things you can do to become more sustainable and line your wallets with more cash! The following are examples of sustainable action items, starting from the easiest.

Energy Smart Level: Smart

- Check to see if your dishwasher can use water at 120F. If so, turn down the water heater to “low”, or 120F.
- Turn off your lights whenever you are leaving the room.
- Connect your electronics onto a single power strip. Switch off the power strip whenever the electronics are not in use.
- If possible, use a laptop instead of a desktop. Laptops use half as much energy as desktops.
- Use energy saving settings on your appliances and electronics.
- Unplug your electronics, such as your secondary computer or guest room TV, whenever they are not in use.
- Check your refrigerator doors to ensure they close tightly.
- Clean the condenser coils of your refrigerators and freezers annually.
- Don't keep your refrigerators or freezers too cold.
- Take showers in the early mornings or in the evenings to avoid additional moisture.
- Dry your clothes outside without using a dryer.
- Use an appropriately sized pan when you cook.
- Close drapes during warm, sunny days, and open drapes on cold, sunny days.

Energy Smart Level: Smarter

- Install low-flow showerheads and faucets.
- Install a programmable thermostat for when you are sleeping or away.
- Plug any leaks in attic and basement.
- Repair leaky windows.
- Install water heater insulation.
- Insulate hot water pipes.
- Clean and replace HVAC filters.
- Install CFL fixtures where you use lighting the most.
- Place furniture to maximize the use of natural lighting.
- Upgrade your appliances, water heater, and furnace to ENERGY STAR compliant models.

Energy Smart Level: Smartest

- Complete a weatherization for your home.
- Apply weather stripping to doors; caulk windows.
- Seal, insulate, and (if necessary) repair air ducts.
- Install insulation in the basement and attic.
- Upgrade to double-pane windows.
- Reduce air conditioning costs by planting trees around your home.
- Convert to solar water heating.
- Install Solar Energy panels.
- Walk, bike, or use public transportation to get to work.
- Buy a hybrid or electric car.

Remember, you can make a difference by doing any of these items!