

**14**

When purchasing electronic devices or electrical equipment and appliances look for energy star rating. Also look for newer models of energy star; they may have a higher rating.

**15**

Unplug your electronic equipment when they are not in use. Laptops use less electricity than a desktop computer. Turn your screen saver to sleep mode with a black screen.

**16**

Installing a photovoltaic system (solar power system) is cheaper than ever. If your roof has a southern exposure with no shade you are half way there. The extra power you produce can be sold back to the power company.

**17**

Search the internet for more power saving techniques. It probably doesn't make sense to run out and do all of these upgrades right away. Make the extra investments as your need for purchasing items come. If more people took a little more time to consider their impact on the environment and looked for ways to make a positive impact we would all live in a better place.

**18**

Contact your local power company for an energy audit. This program is usually free. Utility companies can also explain their rebates that are available for participating in their program.

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## HOW TO SLOW YOUR POWER METER DOWN



GET  
**\$25 OFF**  
ON YOUR NEXT  
SERVICE CALL  
No Expiration



**1**

Install a programmable thermostat for your heat and air. With a programmable thermostat you can set it for different temperatures for times no one is home. Example would be if you like your home at 76 degrees then you could set it to 80 degrees when you leave for the day and have it brought back down to 76 degrees for when you get home. When leaving for a few days or more set your thermostat so that your AC equipment or heat works less.

**2**

Install fan rheostats for ceiling fans for when full power is not needed and you just want to circulate the air. Fans can make a room more comfortable.

They really don't have a huge impact on the temperature. Turn ceiling fans off when you leave the room. Fans should run counter clock wise in the summer and clockwise in the winter to optimize efficiency.

**3**

Water heater timers and blankets can help reduce the amount of time water heaters are on. If you're considering a new water heater, look for one with the energy star rating. Check the temperature of your existing water heater, 120 degrees is typically as high as you need to set them. On demand water heaters are pricy and may actually increase your electric bill. Perform research before deciding on installing them. Install a solar water heater and you can qualify for rebates to help with the cost of installation and purchasing.

**4**

Install fluorescent lighting for interior and exterior lights. Fluorescent lights last longer, use very little electricity and produce little heat. The more heat you produce in your home the more your AC needs to work. Three way light bulbs can help reduce energy costs if brightness is not needed.

**5**

Install dimmer switches for lighting that can be dimmed when full power is not needed. Timers and occupancy sensors for lights are great for those lights you use regularly but forget to turn off.

**6**

Check your windows and doors for proper sealing to prevent electrical waste. Use caulking and weather stripping to seal openings.

**7**

Upgrading old appliances to energy star rated appliances can help save a substantial amount of your electric bill.



A refrigerator uses a large portion of your electric bill. Make sure that it closes and seals correctly.

**8**

Wash and dry full loads of laundry. If your washer and dryer are not working properly you could be wasting a lot of money. Replace them with energy star appliances. Wash and dry more than one load at a time, when a dryer is already warm it takes less energy to dry your clothes. Set timers for drying clothes to prevent over drying. Vent your dryer to the outside and keep filters clean.

**9**

When was the last time you had your electrical system checked out? Loose connections can cause heat which is power loss and is an electrical danger.

**10**

Keep your AC system in top shape with yearly maintenance. A bad running AC system can cause high electric bills. Change your air filters regularly, typically once a month.

**11**

Tint your windows or use drapes and blinds to keep the sun out. The more sun you keep out, the less work your AC unit will have to do.

**12**

Check your attic to see if more insulation is needed. Also check ductwork and AC returns. The ducting can become loose and waste energy. Your attic should be well insulated with attic ventilation to remove the excess heat. Solar power ventilators are a great idea and they use no electricity.

**13**

How many hours a day does your pool pump work? Experiment with different time allotments for running the pool pump. The less you can run it the more you save and the longer your pump will last. In the winter months you can shorten the hours compared to the summer. For heating use a solar water heater or a pool cover.