

ENERGY REDUCTION GUIDE

FOR CSS, CGS & OFF-GRID PV SYSTEMS

IN GENERAL

- Use appliances during the day instead of at night whenever you can.

COOLING

- **Close your exterior doors and windows** tightly when the AC is on.
- **Change or clean your AC's air filters** at least once a month to keep your system running at peak performance.
- **Make sure your AC has a rating** – or Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) – of 15.
- **Make saving automatic:** Set your thermostat fan switch to "auto" to save energy. Leaving it in the "on" position keeps air running constantly.
- **Buy a NEST programmable thermostat which will automatically adjust temperature throughout the day.** (We happen to sell them!)
- **Block the sun** from overheating your home! Inside, use shades, blinds and drapes. Outside, use awnings, trees and shrubs.
- **Insulate your walls** with injected foam insulation to help you save energy by keeping hot outside air from seeping through porous block walls – check with your local building supply company for details.
- **Give your AC tune-up.** Running an inefficient AC system can result in high monthly bills.
- **Open interior doors** so that cooled air flows freely throughout your home.
- **Repair leaky ducts** to reduce energy used for cooling.
- **Install attic insulation** rated R-30 and sealing any attic leaks to reduce high home cooling costs.
- **Check for household leaks** to make sure air isn't escaping through fireplace dampers, doors and windows.
- **Decorate for a cooler home** by hanging light-colored curtains that allow light to enter a room while blocking some of the sun's rays, and light-colored paint to reflect heat.
- **Close unused air vents.** If you have central AC you can close air vent in rooms you're not using.
- **Use ceiling fans** to cool off for less. Ceiling fans use no more electricity than a standard light bulb.

LIGHTING

- **Replace standard bulbs with CFLs.** Compact fluorescent light bulbs are more energy-efficient than regular bulbs, while giving off the same amount of light.
- **Use the right bulb.** Make sure you're using the appropriate CFL bulb for your light fixture – they come in various sizes and types for different lighting needs.
- **Replace halogen light bulbs**, which can get hot enough to be a fire hazard, with CFLs.
- **Use motion-detector lights** for all your outdoor lighting – they're convenient and efficient.
- **Consider using timers** to turn lights on in the morning and off during the day.

- **Select light-colored or opaque lamp shades.** Place lamps in corners so they reflect light from two walls.

APPLIANCES

- **Unplug any appliances you can immediately after use.**
- **Use microwaves and toaster ovens** to warm leftovers instead of a conventional oven.
- **Pull the plug on that second fridge** located in the hot garage or utility room.
- **Set your refrigerator temperature** between 30 and 42°F. Use the power-save switch if you have one.
- **Repair refrigerator door seals** if you feel cold air around the closed door or if moisture is collecting.
- **Check the coils behind the refrigerator** — and use coil vacuums or dusters to clean them off.
- **Keep your freezer full** – it uses less energy than an empty one.
- **Choose energy-efficient appliances.**
- **Wash and dry several loads** at once so that your dryer isn't completely cooled down when it heats up for the next load.
- **Avoid over-drying your clothes.** It wastes energy, plus causes static and wrinkling.
- **Vent your dryer to the outside** to reduce the workload on your air conditioner.
- **Wash full loads of clothes** when possible. When smaller loads are necessary, use less water.
- **Hang dress clothing to air dry** on portable laundry racks; they will also look better.
- **Clean the dryer lint filter** before every load to keep your dryer running efficiently.
- **Set your dishwashers on economy mode**, to use less water and electricity.
- **Turn off your dishwasher after the wash cycle** — and let your dishes air-dry.
- **Keep the oven closed while cooking** – the temperature can drop by 25° each time you open the door.
- **Grill out more often** – Using the oven forces your AC to work harder, which raises your energy bill.
- **Turn off your oven or burners** when food is almost ready and let existing heat finish the cooking for you.
- **Use tight-fitting covers** on pots and pans when cooking on the stove to shorten your cooking time.
- **Match your pot size to the burner** on your stove. Heat is lost when small pots are used on large burners.
- **Consider a laptop** next time you're looking to buy a computer – they use less energy than desktop computers.
- **Set your computer to sleep or hibernate mode** instead of using a screen saver so it uses less electricity during periods of inactivity.