



E-Conservation
power to control what you spend

Energy Efficiency Advisor

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
Helping People. Growing Solutions.

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Tune Up Your AC!



June has arrived and so has the hot, humid North Carolina weather. Your air conditioner (AC) serves two important purposes that help keep your family comfortable: it dehumidifies the air and it cools the air.

To help keep you feeling comfortable and keep your AC in peak condition during the summer months, it is important to properly maintain it. Whether you have a central or window unit, here are some tips for keeping your AC working well:

Central Air Conditioning

- Make sure your filter is changed monthly for cleaner air and to prevent your unit from overworking
- Keep appliances that give off heat away from the thermostat
- Have your unit inspected on an annual basis to ensure optimal performance
- Keep your unit clear of any overgrowth of weeds or other plants

Window Air Conditioning

- Seal the space between your unit and the window as much as possible to prevent drafts
- Clean out the condenser coils once a season to prevent buildup of dirt and other unwanted material
- Make certain the unit is level so that condensation doesn't drip back towards the house

The information below comes from the Department of Energy's Home Cooling 101 Infographic (click to see the entire infographic). It may help you troubleshoot some common air conditioner problems.

In This Month's Issue:

Air Conditioning Tips

Hurricane Season Begins

National Safety Month

Green Living Blog

Summer Solstice

Join In On the Social Media Buzz!

Like what you're seeing in this newsletter? Then you'll like following us on social media even more as it provides the quickest E-Conservation updates, such as workshop announcements, new online resources, and interesting energy news.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Pinterest](#)

Also be sure to visit our [website!](#)

Interesting Energy Reads

Recent content featured on E-Conservation social media channels:

[N.C.'s Clean Energy Industry Growing, Asheville A Hub](#)

[N.C. House Votes to Keep Solar Energy Tax Credits](#)

[Energy Conservation Saves Pitt](#)

Hurricane Season Officially Begins in June



Hurricane season officially begins June 1. It isn't just the North Carolina coast that has to be worried about potential hazards. Hurricanes have affected all NC citizens from the coast, to the Piedmont and even to the mountains. Are you and your home ready?

If not, take some time to review some of the information available through NC Cooperative Extension. At the **NC Disaster Information Center** you will find all the information you need to be properly prepared, including:

Hurricane Preparedness
Correcting Potential Hazards Before a Disaster
Protecting Valuable Records
Caring for Pets During an Emergency
Meal Preparation When the Power is Out
...and more.

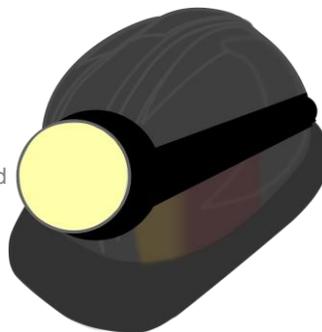
You will also find excellent resources helping you recover should disaster ever strike.

Making Safety the Number One Priority

June marks National Safety Month and the E-Conservation program wants you to remember the importance of staying safe when taking on such projects as assessing your home for energy improvements.

Since many areas of a residence can be dark and cramped, it is important to always be aware of your surroundings and be careful as you maneuver around. These types of areas can include attics, crawlspaces and any storage areas that may have exposed nails and other dangerous objects.

Our recommendations before embarking on your energy assessment adventure and other safety tips:



County Schools \$256,000 Since August

Solar-Powered Plane Begins Its Journey Around the World

Canada Plans to Cut Emissions By 30 Percent By 2030

Make Sure You're Receiving the Energy Efficiency Advisor!

Receiving this e-newsletter from somebody else? Make sure you're on our recipient list so you can directly receive our e-newsletter along with other important E-Conservation updates!

If you would like to start receiving the *Energy Efficiency Advisor*, please send a request to cdpate@ncsu.edu.

"My wife and I got a lot out of the energy workshop. The event gives you plenty of ideas on what to do as well as what not to do."

*Peter Feldkamp on recent Raleigh workshop,
Home Assessment and Energy Retrofit Program participant,
Raleigh, N.C.*

- Bring a flashlight or wear a light on your headgear to maximize visibility in dark areas
- Move slowly in areas with low ceilings, and don't make any drastic movements to avoid running into unexpected objects
- Seal any areas that would allow gases from combustion appliances (i.e. gas water heaters, furnaces) to enter the home
- Make sure there's an exhaust fan that connects to the outside in the kitchen and all bathrooms

Safety Tip of the Month

...from an E-Conservation contractor

"One of the main strategies that comes to mind when thinking of residential safety is installing carbon monoxide alarms. One should be placed in each sleeping zone and any room with a combustion source, such as a fireplace. The alarm should display the current concentration in parts per million (ppm) and be sensitive enough to detect 0 ppm."

*Justin Rowell
Charlotte, N.C.
Green Modeling, LLC*

Head to the National Safety Council [website](#) to learn more about National Safety Month.

Living the Green Life!



E-Conservation Program Participant Rick Gardner of Apex, N.C. recently signed up to have his home serviced by the program and decided to share what he learned with the rest of the world. His blog is titled "[Green Living is the Life For Me](#)" and it reflects on his experiences attending sustainability events and learning how to practice energy efficiency in his everyday life.

Rick attended the E-Conservation workshop held in Raleigh on April 30 and had energy retrofit services installed in his home shortly after. His posts contain organized information and plenty of photographs that can be used as valuable tools for anybody wanting to learn about residential energy efficiency and much more.

Click [here](#) to see his blog and make sure to check in regularly for updates!

Recent Posts:

***E-Conservation Home Retrofit:
Save Energy = Save Money***

***Save Energy, Save Money Insights From
Home Energy Workshop
The New Elio: Takeaways From the
Southeast Alternative Fuels Conference & Expo***

Summer Solstice: June 21



Also known as the longest day of the year, celebrate this day by taking advantage of as much natural light as possible instead of using residential lighting. While you're at it, you can do some activities outside instead of indoor ones that usually require electricity.

See our [online resources](#) for input on how to ensure your windows are using sunlight properly amongst other energy strategies.