



E-Conservation
power to control what you spend

Energy Efficiency Advisor

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Stop the Energy Vampires!

Does off always mean off? Not when it comes to electronics or appliances. Vampire energy or phantom energy is the power that some appliances and electronics use even when they are not in use. According to Energy.gov, this use of standby energy costs the average household \$100/year. Here are a few simple tricks to help you stop this energy drain and save money on your power bill:

- Unplug items such as chargers and appliances that continue to draw power even when not in use.
- Consider purchasing and using a current sensor "smart strip" to turn off power to the devices when not being used. This type of power strip will "automatically turn several outlets off or on when they detect that a monitor (plugged into the "master outlet") either enters a low powered sleep mode, is turned off, or is turned on" (EnergyStar, n.d., para. 8).
- When its time to replace old electronics, consider ENERGY STAR devices. They have a standby mode, which reduces the electricity consumed when these devices are not in use.



For more information, you may want to check out this [infographic](#) by Sarah Gerrity, from the Energy Department.

In This Month's Issue:

- Stop the Energy Vampires!
- Getting Your Fireplace Ready for Fall
- Home Maintenance and Repair

Energy Tips for the Month:

Halloween Tip:

Use LED lights for decorating! ENERGY STAR LED lighting is 75% more efficient and last 10 times longer than traditional lighting. While you're purchasing your decorative LEDs, go ahead and pick up some bulbs for the rest of your house!



For more Halloween tips from EnergyStar, visit [Happy Halloween from Energy Star](#).

Energy Star Heating Season Tip:

Ceiling fans aren't just for keeping you cool. Switch the direction on your ceiling fan to pull air upward to help circulate



the warm air.



Getting Your Fireplace Ready for Fall

Fall has arrived and there is nothing better than the feel of that first fire in the fireplace. While we may love a fire, they aren't the most efficient ways to heat our home. Instead of adding heat to the home, they may actually be a major source of heat loss and therefore added energy costs.

If you do use your fireplace, here are some ideas from Energy.gov to get the most out of your fireplace while reducing heat loss:

- Before lighting your first fire of the season, make certain that you have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a certified chimney sweep. This professional can help ensure your fireplace is operating safely and efficiently.
- Close your fireplace damper after each use. Leaving the damper open allows heated air to escape outside through the chimney. Also, to keep heated air in your home, check the seal of your damper.
- Seal the cracks around your fireplace hearth.
- If you do not have dampers at the bottom of your firebox, open the nearest window approximately 1" (supplying outside air helps to limit the amount of heated air that is lost through your chimney). Then to keep heat in, close the entry doors in the room and lower your thermostat.
- If you do not use your fireplace, you may want to have the flue plugged and sealed.

For more detailed tips on using the fireplace safely and efficiently this fall and winter, visit:

- [Fall and Winter Energy Savings Ideas](#)
- [Fireplaces](#)
- [5 Ways to Maximize your Fireplace and Chimney Efficiency](#)
- [Energy Efficiency and Wood-Burning Stoves and Fireplaces](#)



Then you can turn down

your thermostat, save energy, and still maintain your comfort level.

<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=globalwarmir>

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Home Maintenance and Repair

Before it gets too cold outside, inspect your home for any home maintenance and repair issues. Regular home maintenance helps you maintain a healthy and safe environment for your family, while protecting the value of your largest investment -- your home. It is always better to prevent possible health and safety issues or structural damage before they turn into large issues.

To help you identify areas of concern in your home, use the home maintenance checklist found at the end of NCCE's [Preventive Home Maintenance and Repair Guide](#). This list can help insure that you check all the major areas of your home for potential problems.



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