

12 EASY ENERGY EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS AROUND THE HOUSE

1. Use motion-detector lights for all your outdoor lighting – they're convenient and efficient.
2. Select light-colored or opaque lamp shades. Place lamps in corners so they reflect light from two walls.
3. Use microwaves and toaster ovens to cook or warm leftovers. You'll use less energy than cooking with a conventional oven.
4. Repair refrigerator door seals if you feel cold air around the closed door or if moisture is collecting.
5. Dust your fridge the next time you dust your house. Check the coils behind the refrigerator — and use coil vacuums or dusters to clean it off and keep costs down.
6. Keep stove reflector pans clean to reflect more heat upward while cooking.
7. Use tight-fitting covers on pots and pans when cooking on the stove to shorten your cooking time and save energy.
8. Match your pot size to the burner on your stove. Heat is lost when small pots are used on large burners.
9. Turn bathroom and kitchen ventilation fans off about 10 minutes after their job is done to keep them from pushing cooled air out of your house.
10. Clear the area around where your air conditioner vents to the outside to ensure the best possible ventilation. Make sure the outside part of your air conditioner can easily ventilate by clearing any debris or other items from the area.
11. Use glass baking dishes in the oven when possible. Glass retains heat better than other materials, so it helps food cook faster, and you usually can reduce your oven temperature by about 25 degrees.
12. Challenge everyone in the household to gather around one television a few days each week and turn off the extra units.

Visit www.FPUA.com for more tips.

