

Managing Energy Use



Be emPOWERed.

Managing energy use is simple – really!

STEP ONE:

Know your energy usage. You have a few options:

- Visit www.oppd.com/myaccount to view past bills
- Email OPPD's Energy Advisor at energyadvisor@oppd.com to get a 3-year history in Excel
- Use [OPPDP's Energy Usage Calculator](#) to figure out where most of your energy is being used.

STEP TWO:

Understand how you use energy and what impacts it.

1. *Lifestyle*

Think about it. The more people and pets you have in a home, the more you open the door, right? Every time you open a door, air escapes and your home has to work harder to heat or cool. Lifestyle choices are about thermostat settings; types of window coverings and how you use them; appliances you buy and where you keep them; and how you maintain your home.

2. *Heating and Air Conditioning Efficiencies*

If your HVAC system is not routinely checked by a professional, it could be working inefficiently.

3. *Seasonal Weather Variations:*

Mild or harsh summer and winter seasons can dramatically influence heating and/or cooling energy use and cause energy estimates to vary from year to year.

STEP THREE:

Check and change.

_____ **Thermostats:** Is your home a meat locker in the summer and a sauna in the winter? Change your thermostat setting by just one degree and you can save 3 to 5 percent.

_____ **Window Coverings:** In the summer, close them to cool your home and in the winter, open them to let the sun in and help heat your home.

_____ **Appliances:** Give strong consideration to [ENERGY STAR-rated products](#) that use less energy.

_____ **Appliance Placement:** A fridge in the hot garage uses 45-50% more energy since it works harder to keep those drinks cold.

_____ **Seal Air Leaks:** Caulk has a great return on investment. Use it around doors, windows, recessed lighting and vents. Also consider foam outlet gaskets to prevent leaks from switch covers.

_____ **Lighting:** Replace incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). And shut lights off when you leave a room! We know you've heard that before, but do it. It works!

_____ **Ceiling fans:** Treat ceiling fans just like your lighting, when the room is unoccupied, turn them off.

- In the summer, set in the counterclockwise direction - you should feel a cool breeze.
- In the winter, reverse the motor and operate in the clockwise direction to force warm air down.

_____ **Heating and Cooling Equipment:** Get an annual checkup from a licensed contractor and change those air filters monthly.

For more tips and tools, visit [OPPDP's Energy-Saving Tools page](#) or visit the [Department of Energy](#).