



## **Let's Curb our Electrical Consumption!**

About 80% of people in the world have access to electricity, but despite the fact that more and more people are getting access to electricity, we use very different amounts. Data from the World Energy Council indicated Americans use five times more energy than the global average! The US is second only to Canada in residential electricity use per capita.

Here are some steps we can take to help lower our consumption:

1. Lower your thermostat at night. You will save money and sleep better.
2. Unplug it if you aren't using it! Energy is still wasted when you leave things plugged in. Power strips can help to facilitate lowering use.
3. When you dry a load of laundry, throw in a dry towel with it. A dry towel will soak up the excess water and markedly reduce drying times.
4. In addition to saving money on your electric bill, there are so many reasons not to wash your clothes in hot water. Hot water will shrink clothes and wear them out more quickly. Second, the hot water in your washer doesn't get hot enough to kill germs. Your dryer will do a much better job of that. Finally, heating your electric washing machine water is one of the biggest possible wastes of electricity and money in your home. Always run full loads too!
5. It may be one of the most obvious, but whenever you leave a room turn off the lights. It is one of the easiest ways to save.
6. Make sure you use LED lightbulbs. Most LEDs last an average of 25,000 hours compared to about 750 hours for incandescent. Add to that is the cost of electricity....it takes \$240 to light and incandescent bulb for 25,000 hours as opposed to \$40 for an LED bulb.
7. Set your refrigerator at 40°. Keeping the temperature on your refrigerator too low will cause it to run less efficiently, costing you money and leaving refrigerated foods frozen.
8. Use your dishwasher instead of washing by hand. According to the California Energy Commission, using an energy star dishwasher instead of hand washing can save you 5,000 gallons of water and \$40 in utility cost per year.
9. Installing dimmer switches reduces wattage and helps save energy.
10. Installing a programmable thermostat can save you up to 10% of heating and cooling costs every year.

Thank you for your advocacy!  
Your Environmental Action Committee