



# SIREN Energy-Saving Tip Sheet

## Things you can do right now (the 5 minute energy-saving drill).

1. **Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator.** This has been proven to reduce energy consumption by 20% or more. Mark your calendar to do this every 6 months.
2. **Lower the temperature on your water heater.** Most water heaters are set much hotter than necessary, causing us to mix cold water in with the hot water just to make it bearable.
3. **If you don't use the freezer portion of your refrigerator, consider turning it off.** A lot of energy is wasted just to maintain some stale ice cubes.
4. **If you can't turn off your freezer, but it is mostly empty, consider filling it with water jugs.** The frozen jugs of water will take up space and reduce the volume of air that needs to be cooled by the freezer.
5. **Wash your clothes in cold water with High Efficiency detergent.** They will still get just as clean, and you won't have to use all of that hot water.
6. **Turn off lights when you're not in the room.** You might even enjoy a romantic candle lit dinner every once in awhile.
7. **Use a power strip to completely turn off electronic equipment when it's not in use.** Consider buying a "smart" power strip that will do this automatically.

## Things that you can do in a weekend.

1. **Change your light bulbs with the more efficient fluorescent or LED bulbs.** Start with the bulbs you use most. The quality of light has improved radically in the last few years, so if you gave up on CFLs a while back, try again.
2. **Install a timer for your hot water heater.**
3. **Install a programmable thermostat.** Set the program to make the house comfortable when you're home and awake, while conserving energy when you're asleep or away from home.
4. **Buy a drying rack and let your clothes air dry.**
5. **Replace shower heads with newer water-saving models.** This will save hot water, which will save energy.
6. **Install a solar gable fan or attic fan.** These will keep your home cooler in the summer and help prevent ice dams in the winter.

*Air infiltration makes your home cold in the winter and hot in the summer, but the following tips can really help increase your comfort and lower heating and cooling bills.*

7. **Caulk any gaps around the exterior of your house.**
8. **Caulk gaps in your attic.**
9. **Replace weather stripping around windows.**

## Ongoing things that will help save even more energy.

1. **Buy the most efficient appliances when it's time to buy new ones.**
2. **Pay attention to your daily energy consumption.** See what behaviors you might change to reduce your consumption.