

# Interested in learning how to save energy?

You've come to the right place.

Here are some helpful facts and tips from the New York \$mart Energy Program to help conserve energy and save you money. Read on and then try a few!

## WINTERIZING YOUR HOME HELPFUL TIPS

- ▶ Have your furnace cleaned and checked annually. A dirty or plugged filter reduces the amount of heated air supplied to your home or apartment, increasing your heating cost.
- ▶ Set the thermostat no higher than 68°F. Each degree you keep the thermostat set below 68°F can save you 3 to 5% of your heating cost.
- ▶ Make sure air registers are not obstructed by furniture, carpeting or drapes.
- ▶ Keep windows near the thermostat tightly closed.
- ▶ Open shades and drapes on sunny sides of your home or apartment during daytime hours. Close them at night.
- ▶ Keep windows tightly latched. Latching generally reduces air leakage through gaps around window sashes.
- ▶ For a temporary but quick and effective fix before winter, tape plastic film storm window kits to the inside of the windows. If left in place, these kits usually last up to three years.
- ▶ For the best insulation of all, wear warm clothes.
- ▶ Keep waterbeds covered with a heavy comforter or blankets. The heater in an unmade waterbed can consume 30% more electricity than the heater in a made-up bed.
- ▶ Keep fireplace damper closed unless in use. Close the damper as soon as you are certain the fire is completely out.
- ▶ If using a portable space heater, turn down the central heating thermostat to offset the energy being consumed by the space heater.
- ▶ Never operate kerosene or propane heaters inside without proper ventilation.
- ▶ Never burn charcoal in the house or garage.

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## TIPS TO PUT INTO USE THIS WINTER

### INSULATION

Be sure that your attic and basement are properly insulated, which increases energy efficiency enormously.

### WEATHERPROOFING/CAULKING/SEALING

A well-sealed home is just as important as a well-insulated home.

### INSTALL PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS

Program your thermostat to a lower setting when people are sleeping or the house is empty.

### USE A HUMIDIFIER

Properly humidified air feels warmer.

### DISHWASHER/WASHING MACHINE

Don't run either until you have a full load.

### CHOOSE THE CORRECT LIGHTING

Compact fluorescents are four times more efficient than regular bulbs and last about eight times as long.

## Lighting

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Replacing your current incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) will save you nearly \$30 over the life of each bulb.
- CFLs use 75% less energy than a standard incandescent bulb and last up to 10 times longer. This means that over the life of one CFL, a consumer can avoid replacing up to 9 incandescent bulbs!
- ENERGY STAR lighting fixtures put out the same amount of light as standard fixtures while providing excellent color rendering and light temperature. Colors appear true and natural.
- ENERGY STAR fixtures operate at much lower temperatures than many traditional lamps, so the risk of starting a fire in your home is much lower.

### TIPS

- ▶ Turn off unused lights and appliances when you leave a room.
- ▶ Use timers on indoor and outdoor lights.

## Air Conditioning

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Replacing a 15-year-old room air conditioner with a new ENERGY STAR room air conditioner could save up to \$56 a year on electricity.
- Programmable thermostats will automatically raise the air-conditioning temperature at night and lower it again in the morning. They cost about \$25 and will lead to instant savings on electric bills.
- Running an appropriately sized smaller unit for a longer time will use less energy to completely condition a room than running a larger unit for a shorter time.

### TIPS

- ▶ Set your air-conditioning thermostat at 78°F or higher during the cooling season. Each degree above 75°F saves you 3% of the energy used to cool your home.
- ▶ Change or clean your air filter once a month.

## Natural Cooling

### TIPS

- ▶ Close your draperies, windows and doors on the sunny side of your home on hot, sunny days to reduce solar heat buildup.
- ▶ Consider using window fans, particularly in the evening when you can draw cooler air into the house.

## The Bath

### TIPS

- ▶ Use your exhaust fans sparingly. In just one hour they can remove a houseful of warmed or cooled air.
- ▶ Repair all leaky faucets. One drop per second can waste as much as 10 gallons of water in a week.
- ▶ Take showers rather than baths. A typical shower requires only half as much hot water as an average tub bath.

## The Attic

### TIPS

- ▶ Insulate your attic.
- ▶ Install a vapor barrier in your attic to reduce the flow of moisture from inside your home through the insulation. This eliminates condensation that reduces insulation efficiency.

## Home Office

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Look for the ENERGY STAR label on computer monitors, fax machines, copiers and water coolers.
- In the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off.

**Home electronic products use energy when they're off to power features like clock displays and remote controls. Those that have earned the ENERGY STAR label use as much as 50% less energy to perform these functions, while providing the same performance at the same price as less efficient models.**

### TIPS

- ▶ Turn off lights in offices and conference rooms when they are not in use.
- ▶ Turn off office equipment when it is not needed at night or on the weekends.



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STATE SENATE**  
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Dear Friend,

Did you know that a typical American family spends about \$1,900 each year on home utility bills? Keeping warm in the winter and comfortable in the summer shouldn't mean breaking the family budget, but rising fuel costs are making it more expensive for New Yorkers to heat and cool their homes.

This brochure provides timely, money-saving tips that will help you lower your fuel costs. Some of the tips are simple to do. Others require more effort and investment, but promise substantial savings for years to come.

For more information on lowering energy costs, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's website to access their Energy Savers Booklet at [www.energysavers.gov/tips/](http://www.energysavers.gov/tips/)

Please take a few moments to read these valuable tips and start saving money and energy today!

Sincerely,



NYS Senator  
José D. Peralta

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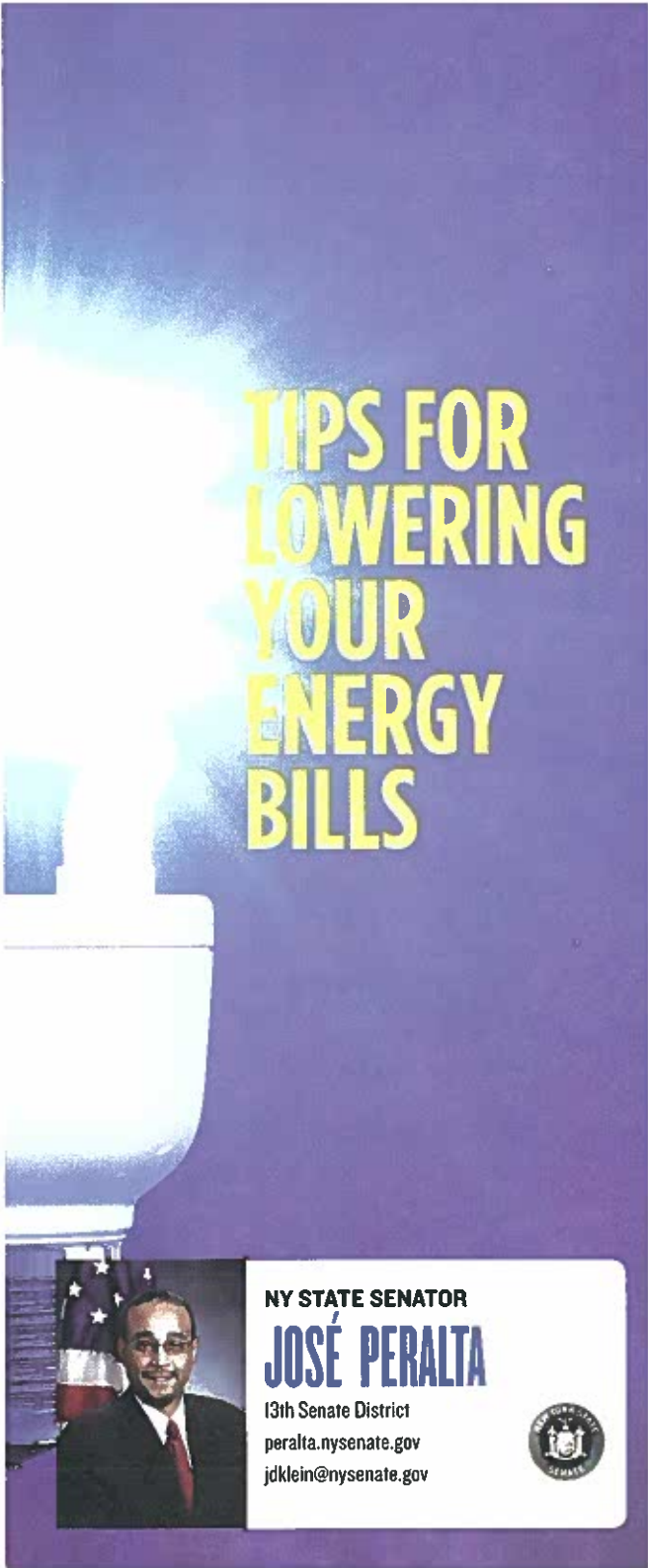
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# TIPS FOR LOWERING YOUR ENERGY BILLS



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