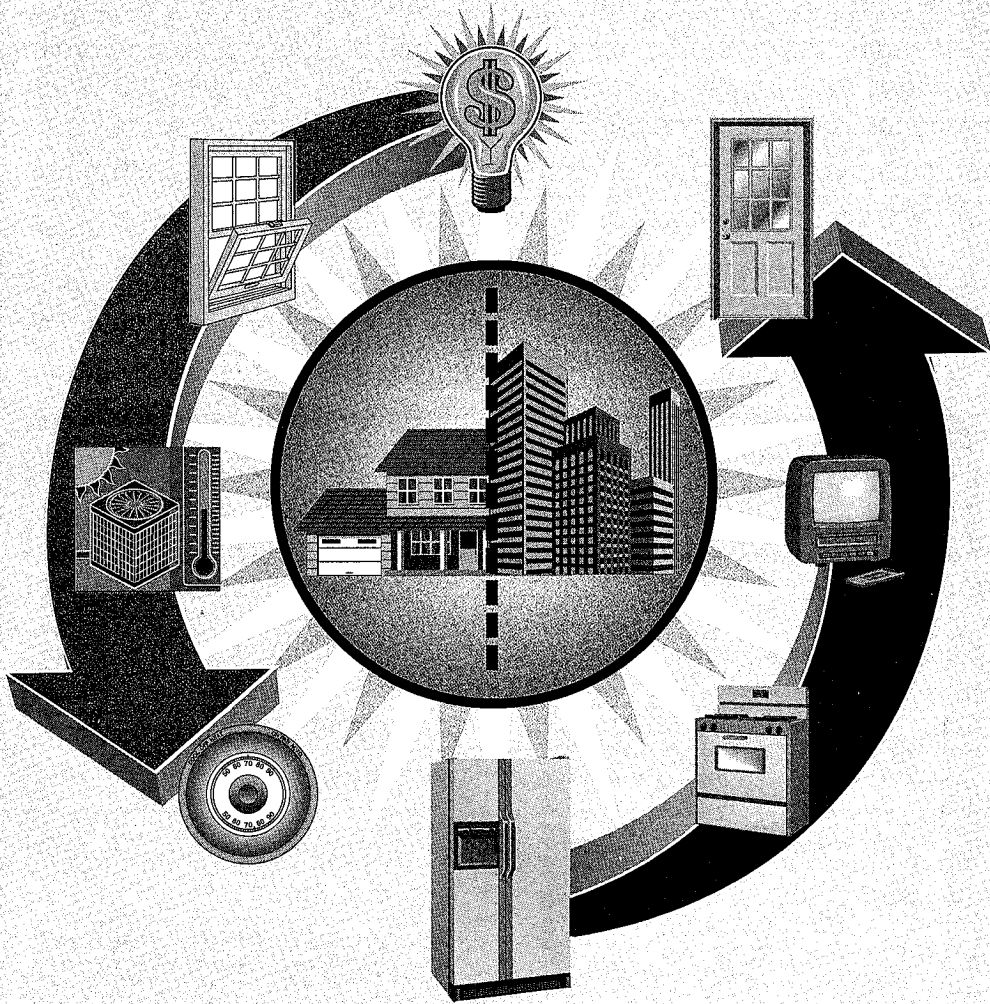


EnergyWise:

**An Energy Conservation Guide
for Residents of
HUD Community Housing**

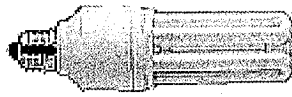


Conservation Sharing

Electricity



- Lower thermostats in winter, raise them in summer, when space is not occupied.
- Turn off lights when rooms are not occupied.
- Unplug or turn off items such as portable fans and space heaters when you don't need them.
- Make sure your refrigerator door is closed tightly and that the seal around the door is not leaking. If you see moisture or mold around seals or if you close a dollar bill in the seal and can pull it out easily, the seal is loose or the latch may need adjustment. Contact your Housing Manager to schedule a repair.
- Use a microwave or toaster oven for cooking or reheating small items. Use the broiler rather than the oven when possible. The broiler uses less energy and preheating is not required. In the summer, try to use your oven during the cooler hours of the day. When using a stove cook top, match the pot size to burner size and keep the lid on pots to reduce the amount of energy required for cooking.
- You can save significantly by replacing your most used 75 or 100-watt bulbs with comparable 23-watt CFLs (flourescent) replacements. CFLs cost a little more to purchase but use 66% less energy and last ten times longer than standard bulbs.



TIP: Free lighting is available every day. Open shades and blinds on sunny days. Close them at night to reduce heat loss through windows.

- Open windows and use portable or ceiling fans instead of operating your air conditioner in mild weather. Nearly half of your energy bill goes to cooling.
- If you use a window air conditioner, use a fan to spread cool air through your residence.
- Don't place lamps or TVs near your air conditioning thermostat. The heat from these appliances will cause the air conditioner to run longer.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.

- Take showers instead of baths to reduce hot water use.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Use cold water to wash your clothes.
- In the summer, close curtains on south- and west-facing windows during the day.

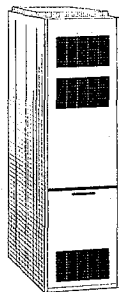
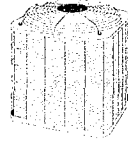
Heating and Cooling



- Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting, preferably no higher than 68°, in the winter. Wearing a sweater or thicker clothing will allow you to lower the thermostat without sacrificing comfort. Adjust the thermostat to the highest comfortable setting, preferably no lower than 78°, in the summer. When the outside temperature is moderate in warmer weather, open windows and use fans instead of air conditioner where possible. Wearing thinner, loose fitting clothing will allow you to lower your cooling bill.



- In the winter, keep the blinds or drapes closed on windows which are exposed to the north. On sunny days, open blinds and drapes on the sunny side of your residence. Keep blinds and drapes closed at night. In the summer, close blinds and drapes on the sunny side of your residence to cut down on heat.
- Be sure furnace/air conditioner filters are changed regularly. Clean filters allow your heating and cooling system to work much more efficiently.
- Make sure no obstructions block the free flow of air from your heating/cooling vents.
- Notify your landlord or Housing Manager if you detect significant drafts around windows or doors or if you have a broken window.



Water

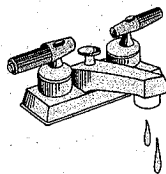


Even in areas where water seems abundant, water conservation is important. Although it is tough to see the connection, you can help improve water quality just by conserving at home.

In addition to saving money on your utility bill, water conservation helps prevent water pollution in nearby lakes, rivers and local watersheds. If you are on your own septic system, conserving water can extend the life of the system by reducing soil saturation and reduce any pollution due to leaks. Overloading municipal sewer systems can also cause untreated sewage to flow to lakes and rivers. The smaller the amount of water flowing through these systems, the lower the likelihood of pollution. In some communities, costly sewer system expansion has been avoided by communitywide household water conservation.

Water Saving Tips:

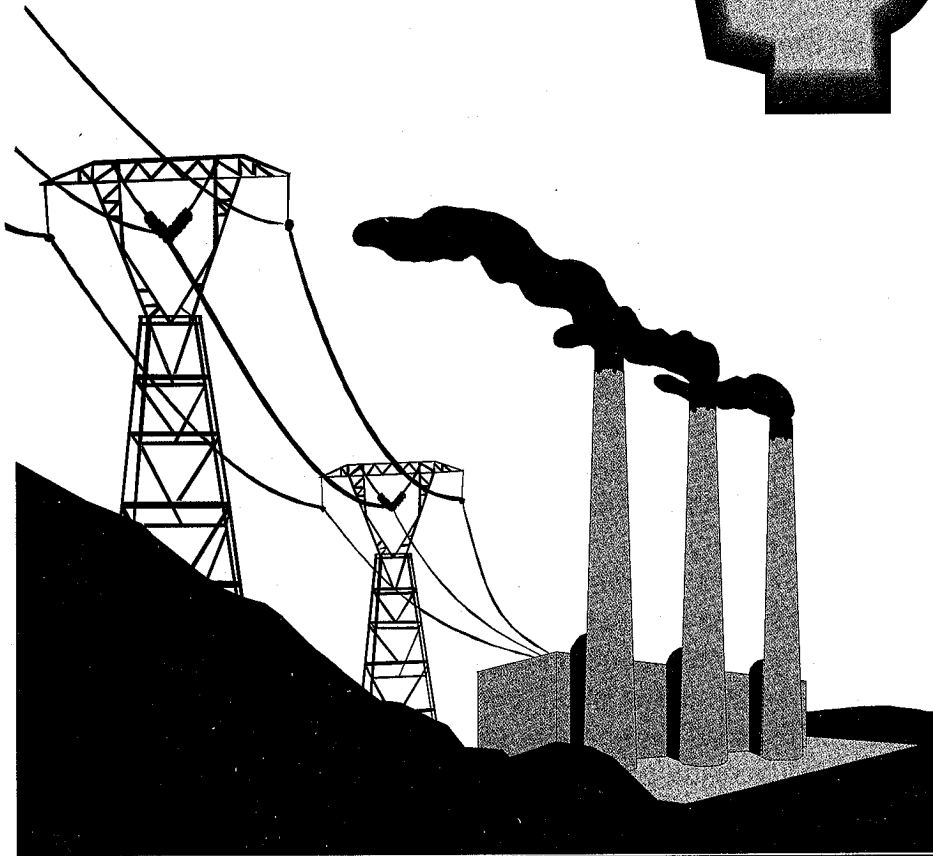
- ✓ Be on the alert for leaking toilets. Put a drop or two of food coloring in your toilet tank and watch it for a while. If the water in the toilet bowl changes color within a 30-minute period, you have a leaking toilet. Notify your Housing Manager for a repair.
- ✓ Do not flush your toilet unless necessary. Tissue, trash and other similar items should be disposed of in the waste can, not the toilet.
- ✓ Take short showers. Turn the water off while you are soaping up, then back on to rinse. Shaving in the shower while the water is running consumes excess water unnecessarily. Ask your Housing Manager about installing water-saving shower heads.
- ✓ If you take baths instead of showers, use the minimum amount of water necessary.
- ✓ Report dripping faucets to your Housing Manager for repair. A dripping faucet can waste as much as 2,000 to 3,000 gallons of water in a year!
- ✓ If you turn on your hot water faucet to warm the water, don't let the cold water run down the drain. Catch it in a cup and use it to water plants.
- ✓ Run your dishwasher or clothes washer only when they are fully loaded or change the setting to a water level for a smaller load.



*The energy / resources savings suggestions in this book are only a beginning. They are intended to stimulate your creativity. Use your imagination in coming up with other ways to save. An **EnergyWise** person will look for opportunities to save because they know that not only themselves but everyone will benefit.*

The following page gives other sources of information on energy savings.

**THINK
SAVINGS!**



Other EnergyWise Resources

1. U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,
Public Housing Energy Conservation Clearinghouse:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/resources.cfm>
2. U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585
Phone: (800) 342-5363
Fax: (202) 586-4403
<http://www.energy.gov/energyefficiency/index.htm>
3. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
helpline: (866) 987-7367
http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/why_water_efficiency.html