

Energy and Water Saving Tips

Simple Ways to Save the World

Turn off your lights - An easy one. Turn off your lights when you are not using them. The benefits are obvious. Even if you are gone for only a few minutes, it is more efficient to turn off your lights than to leave them on.

Change to fluorescent bulbs –Exchange your Incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent lights (CFL). Although they are several times more expensive, they last longer and are more than twice as efficient. The initial investment usually has a simple payback of less than one and a half years. If every house in the United States changed all of the light bulbs in their house, that would be equivalent to taking one million cars off the streets.

Purchase energy efficient or Energy Star appliances when considering new home appliances.

Turn Down your thermostat—Every degree lower in the winter or higher in the summer can result in a 10% decrease on your energy bill.

Try to avoid adjusting the thermostat—Many have the habit of setting the thermostat higher than they actually want it, hoping it will achieve the desired temperature faster. In most cases, this won't help your home heat up any faster, but it will guzzle fuel unnecessarily. Set it to the temperature you want and leave it alone. Even better, get a programmable thermostat.

Don't take baths—A shower uses about half the water of a bath.

Don't water your lawn in the middle of the day –especially during the hot summer months. Less water will evaporate, leaving your plants looking better and saving you money.

Buy low-flow fixtures for your showers and sinks—These fixtures reduce flow from 7 gallons per minute to 2.5 gallons per minute. They're cheap at your local hardware store. Check to see if you can benefit from rebates being offered by city or county governments for water conservation measures.

Shorten your shower—Every minute you cut from your shower is roughly 7 gallons of water. The less time your shower takes, the lower your impact on the environment.

Turn the water off when you brush!

Go to a car wash – Commercial car washes use about 45 gallons of water per car, while do it yourself washes use between 80 and 140 gallons per car. Additionally, runoff from a carwash goes into the sewer, where it is treated as wastewater, while driveway washing puts soapy, oily, and dirty water directly in storm drains that leads to the ocean.



Find use on Facebook:
Caltech Sustainability



Follow us on Twitter:
@Caltechgreen

www.sustainability.caltech.edu

SUSTAINABILITY
AT CALTECH