

## Residential Energy Savers: Heating Tips

### No-Cost Tips

#### *Let the sun shine in!*

Use the natural warmth of the sun to help heat your home during the winter. Open the shades on south facing windows during the day to let the sun in and close them at night to keep the warmth inside.

#### *Dress warmer when the days get colder*

It's less expensive and more efficient than turning on the heat. It won't cost you anything and will help save on heating costs.

#### *Heat only the spaces you're using*

If you have existing baseboard or wall heaters turn down the thermostats in unused rooms and close the door. Since baseboard/wall heaters supply heat to each room individually they are ideally suited to zone heating or heating the occupied rooms in your home while allowing unoccupied sections (such as empty guest rooms or seldom-used rooms) to remain cooler. Zone heating can produce energy savings of more than 20% compared to heating both occupied and unoccupied areas of your house.

#### *Set the heat at 68 degrees when you're home and awake*

Set the heat at 68 degrees instead of 70 when you're awake to save on your heating costs. For each degree, you turn down your heat, you'll save 2-3% on your heating bill. If you currently keep your home quite warm, turn down the thermostat by just 2 degrees at first, then decrease it again when you're used to the change.

#### *Set the heat at 55 degrees when you're away or sleeping*

Set the heat at 55 when you're sleeping or away from home and you could save as much as 10% on your heating costs. If you currently keep your home quite warm at night, turn down the thermostat by just 2 or 3 degrees at first, then decrease it again when you're used to the change.

#### *Keep your heat flowing*

If you have furniture or curtains in front of your wall/baseboard heaters or register vents, you could be blocking the heat they are trying to deliver. Each fall, check to be sure the heater or vent is not blocked and vacuum the heater coils or clean the registers.

### Low-Cost Tips

#### *Help your furnace breathe*

Check the air filters of your electric furnace every month. By replacing dirty filters you'll improve your air quality as well as save energy. Buying multi-packs of filters is a good way to be sure you have one on hand when you need it.

Cost: \$2-10 per filter

#### *Upgrade to an electronic thermostat*

Installing an electronic thermostat(s) makes it easier to be sure that your home is heated efficiently. The thermostat can automatically change



the

temperature based on the schedule and settings you create

Cost: as little as \$20

#### *Insulate outlets and light switches*

You can lose 2% of your home's heat through uninsulated outlets and light switches on exterior walls. Insulate them with foam gaskets available at most home improvement and hardware stores. You'll reduce drafts and save energy.

Cost: \$1 per outlet/switch

#### *Add caulk or weather-stripping to windows and doors*

Adding or repairing the weather-stripping on your windows and doors can significantly reduce heat loss and drafts. This is an excellent do-it-yourself project using supplies from a local hardware store

Cost: \$1 per window/ \$10 per door

*Install storm windows*

If you have single pane or older inefficient double pane windows you can reduce heat loss with storm windows or plastic. You can also use a heavy-duty clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of the window frames during the cold winter months. Remember the plastic must be sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

Cost: varies

*Seal your ductwork*

Poorly sealed and uninsulated ducts in unconditioned space can lose 15-30% of your heated or cooled air before it even gets to the register. Sealing your ductwork prevents conditioned air (warmed or cooled) from escaping. Sealing your ducts to prevent leaks is even more important if the ducts are in an unconditioned area such as an attic or vented crawl space. Although minor duct repairs are easy to make ducts in unconditioned spaces should be sealed and insulated by qualified professionals using appropriate sealing materials.

Inland Power offers a rebate for qualifying customers for this improvement.

Cost: varies (\$\$\$)

*Have your heat pump system serviced*

Have a professional clean and inspect your heating system every other fall to ensure that it is tuned and ready for the heating season. You'll save energy and extend the life of your heating system.

Cost: approximately \$150

*Have your furnace serviced*

Have a professional clean and inspect your electric furnace every five years to ensure it is tuned and ready for the heating season. You'll save energy and extend the life of your furnace.

Cost: approximately \$150

*Add a ceiling fan*

Installing and using an Energy Star ceiling fan to circulate the air can lower both your heating and cooling costs. Be sure to run the fan on reverse during the winter to push warm air down off the ceiling

Cost: varies

*Use a portable space heater*

Using a portable space heater can save you money IF you use in place of your furnace to heat SMALL areas. For example, using it to heat your home office while you pay bills instead of turning on the furnace to heat the whole house may save you energy. Be sure to turn off the heater when you are not using it to prevent fires.

Cost: varies

**Smart Investment Tips***Upgrade to Energy Star windows*

Replacing your single-pane or older inefficient double-pane windows will not only increase the value of your home, it will also reduce your home heating costs. Choose the most efficient windows (window with a U-value of 0.30 or less) that fall within your budget and design needs.

Inland Power offers cash rebates to qualifying members who invest in new efficient windows and sliding glass doors.

Cost: varies (\$\$\$)

*Upgrade your insulation*

Properly insulating your home will not only help reduce your heating and cooling costs but also make your home more comfortable. Unless your home was specially constructed for energy efficiency you can usually reduce your energy bills as much as 10% by adding more insulation.

Inland Power offers a cash incentive to qualifying customers with electric heat.

Cost: varies

*Upgrade to an efficient air source heat pump*

If you heat with a forced air electric furnace or zonal systems, a heat pump can trim the amount of electricity you use for heating by as much as 50-60%. If your electric furnace or current heat pump needs to be replaced look for a high-efficiency geothermal or air source system. If your home does not have an existing duct system consider upgrading to a ductless heat pump system.

Inland Power offers cash incentives to qualifying members who replace an electric furnace or baseboard/wall heaters with an efficient heat pump.

Cost: \$\$\$

*Upgrade to a geothermal heat pump*

Geothermal heat pumps are even more efficient than air source heat pumps. If your electric furnace or current heat pump needs to be replaced consider installing a geothermal heat pump system.

Inland Power offers a cash incentive to qualifying members.

Cost: \$\$\$\$