

Join Fellow Virginians in **Saving Energy and Money**



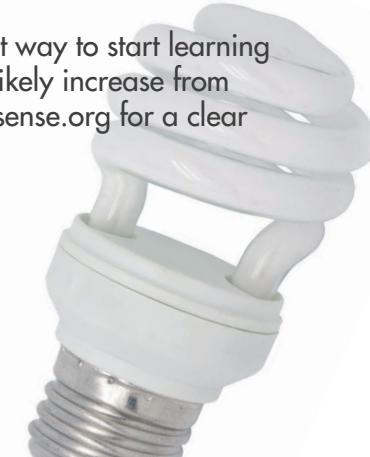
**Virginia Energy Sense** is the Commonwealth's energy education program designed to help all Virginians understand their energy use and, more importantly, how to save energy easily and cost effectively. Virginia is committed to **reducing its energy use by 10% by 2022**. It's a goal we can achieve if we all do our part by following simple steps to reduce our energy consumption.

Many energy-saving improvements can be done in just a few minutes, while others take more time but produce greater savings. Pick the tips that work for you and get started today!

## EASY & EFFECTIVE

- **Replace traditional incandescent light bulbs.** Use more efficient bulbs like LED lights, which use up to 75% less energy, or CFLs that will save you up to \$40 over the lifetime of each bulb.
- **Lower your water heater's temperature.** 120 degrees should be sufficient. The energy savings can be up to 11% of water heating costs.
- **Install a programmable thermostat.** Reducing heating and cooling when you're asleep or out of the house can save up to \$180 per year.
- **Close curtains, open windows.** Now that spring has sprung, on warmer days, keep curtains closed during the day and open windows at night to allow cool air in.
- **Use smart energy-saving power strips.** These allow you to turn off your appliances when they're not in use, but still provide power to one vital technology.
- **Understand your utility bill.** This is a great way to start learning how to save energy – especially as your bill will likely increase from warm weather cooling costs. Visit [virginiaenergysense.org](http://virginiaenergysense.org) for a clear explanation of what your bill means.

**VALUE YOUR POWER**  
VIRGINIA ENERGY SENSE





## BIGGER INVESTMENT, BIGGER REWARDS

- **Caulk and seal.** Leaks and drafts cause unnecessary energy waste and expense. Caulk and air seal all doors and windows to reduce drafts and cut energy bills by as much as 30%.
- **Purchase Energy Star Appliances.** If you're looking for new appliances keep in mind that Energy Star certified products use up to 70% less energy than other models.
- **Replace HVAC air filters.** Dirty air filters cause the system to use more energy. Service your heating system once a year, and pick up an inexpensive air filter whistle at your local hardware store that will start to "sing" when your filter is dirty and ready to be changed.
- **Ensure that your attic and basement are properly insulated.** Insulation is measured in R-values—the higher the R-value, the better your walls and roof will resist the transfer of heat.
- **Conduct your own home energy audit.** See where you can make energy efficiency upgrades in your home Get started with the free Home Energy Test and handy checklist on the Virginia Energy Sense website to find out where you can look for energy savings.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling. Keep this in mind when you are making decisions – including the cost to repair or replace - your home's older, less efficient heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system.
- The average home loses 15-35% of the energy used to heat and cool air because of leaks. These leaks can be caused by tiny gaps and cracks, and even through electric outlets and light switch plates. You can eliminate these leaks by using inexpensive gasket covers and socket sealers.
- The average monthly electricity bill for a home in Virginia is around \$115. Whether your bill is higher or lower, there is plenty of room for savings using these tips from Virginia Energy Sense!

Virginians across the state are taking the 10% Challenge by pledging to reduce their energy use — and start saving money. Now it's your turn!

Find out more at [www.virginiaenergysense.org](http://www.virginiaenergysense.org)