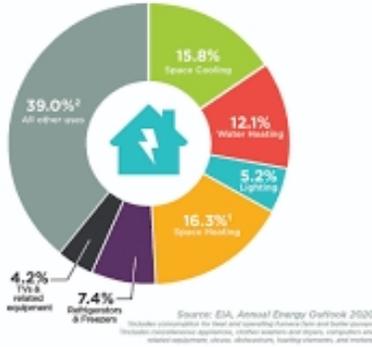


Before Investing in Renewable Energy, Reduce Your Energy Usage

How Americans Use Electricity
The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, computers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for nearly 40% of electricity consumption in American homes.



Four uses of electricity account for almost 50% of all home electricity costs

- Space cooling – 15.8%
- Water heating – 12.1%
- Lighting – 5.2%
- Space heating – 16.3%

All other uses account for almost 40%

- Clothes washers and dryers
- Computers
- Dishwashers and other miscellaneous appliances



Reducing home electricity usage reduces fossil fuel consumption by utilities and reduces the investment you need for renewable energy.

- The more you reduce your use of electricity generated by fossil fuels, the less utility companies need to use to generate what's left.
- The less electricity you need, the less you need to invest in renewable energy to generate what's left.
- Reducing your home electricity usage is a Win-Win. For you and for the planet.



Get a free professional home energy assessment to find all your opportunities to reduce your electricity usage.

- The New Jersey Clean Energy Program is the gateway to home energy assessments and grants for New Jersey homeowners. <https://njcleanenergy.com/transition>
- PSE&G provides Home Energy Assessments under this program for Hamilton residents. <https://homeenergy.pseg.com/assessments>
- If you can save enough money through efficiency upgrades, you may qualify for grants, low-interest loans, or both.



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Do-It-Yourself Tips For Cutting Your Energy Usage

Even without a Home Energy Assessment, the typical single-family home has energy IN-efficiencies that homeowners can fix at little or no-cost. These can significantly reduce your electricity usage even before you have a Home Energy Assessment.

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University has 40 tips for reducing home energy use at <https://www.anspblog.org/reduce-your-household-energy-use/>. Here are some examples from that list that many of us don't think of:

11. Hang clothes to air dry (at least sometimes) instead of using a clothes dryer. (**Side Tip:** Throw a dry bath towel into the clothes dryer along with the wet load. The wet load will dry faster.)
12. Use cold water in the washing machine whenever possible.
13. Only wash full loads of laundry. Each half load or quarter load of laundry costs as much electricity and water as a full load.
14. Wash dishes by hand (at least sometimes) instead of using a dishwasher.

26. Open the refrigerator or oven door only when necessary so the cold and the heat don't escape. Your appliances will thank you for not having to work extra hard to do their job.
27. Thaw frozen foods in the fridge, not on the counter. This will help keep the fridge cold.
28. Thaw meats and casseroles completely before cooking to reduce cooking time.
29. Wait until hot foods cool before placing them in the fridge. This will keep the fridge from having to work overtime to keep its contents cool.
30. Match the size of your cooking pot to the size of the burner. Using a larger burner allows heat to escape into the room.

The bottom line is that, by reducing our energy usage, we can reduce the consumption of fossil fuel by utility companies and what they charge us to deliver the rest. We can also reduce the investment needed to replace all or part of the energy we get from fossil fuel with energy from renewable sources.



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