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Energy Tips for Residents

These energy tips can help you save year-round.

1. Seal all leaks around doors, windows, and electrical outlets. Heat and AC from your home escapes out of these cracks. By sealing these leaks, you can save real dollars on your heating and air conditioning bill, and the cost of materials to seal these leaks is minimal.
2. We don't often think about it but keep your chimney and vent systems cleaned. Pipes must be properly connected and there should be no signs of rust or damage.
3. If you have window air conditioning units be sure to seal them in with caulking or insulated tape, a little effort will go along way with energy cost.
4. If you are thinking of replacing your HVAC system, consider getting one that is 90% or higher in efficiency. Replacing your old HVAC system with a new, more energy efficient one can save up to 30% of your energy costs. Remember to look for the ENERGY STAR label.
5. Is your insulation up to par? For a comparative minimal cost, you can upgrade the insulation in your exterior walls, crawlspaces, basements and attics. Insulation may come in batts or loose fill, which can be blown into place and get those hard to reach places.
6. Did you know you can lose conditioned air through your electrical receptacles, light switches and lighting fixtures? Consider installing foam gaskets behind these receptacles and switches or install plastic security caps to reduce energy loss.
7. If you have single-pane windows, add storm windows to cut energy loss. Better still, replace single-pane windows with energy-efficient double pane windows with inert argon gas fill, warm-edge spacers, and low-e coating.
8. Make sure your conditioned air vents are not blocked by furniture or drapes and the dampers are open. Vacuum out dust and pet hair from the air registers and

the returns so your HVAC system runs more efficiently. Change your filter monthly or as needed.

9. It's time to take a look at your water heater. If its surface is hot or even warm to the touch, some of the energy used to heat the water is being wasted. Wrap the heater in an insulating blanket. Be sure to check your user manual and labels on the tank first.
10. If you're building a new home, make sure you place the water heater as close as possible to the kitchen, laundry room, and bathrooms, and insulate the hot water piping. Heat is lost as it moves through long pipes, so the closer the unit is to these rooms, the more money you could save. If this is not possible, think of installing a recirculating pump.
11. Did you know that if you never run out of hot water, then you may have set your water heater thermostat too high? Check your thermostat, set it where you are most comfortable, but the preferred setting is around 110 degrees F.

We hope this information has been helpful

Mark Mitchell CBO, MCP
Chief Building Official
mmitchell@peachtreecornersga.gov