



SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Keeping Your Home Warm

By Justin Holgerson

With autumn in full swing and winter just around the corner, you might be wondering how to keep your home warm and comfortable without spending a fortune. The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) and [U.S. Department of Energy](#) have assembled guides on weatherizing your home and improving your heating systems. A [Home Energy Audit](#) (professional or do-it-yourself) is recommended to identify and prioritize problem areas. If you are concerned with having the resources (time/money) to enact some of these measures, fear not. Here are a handful of quick and simple actions that will save energy and make your home more comfortable this winter!



There are some simple steps people can take to keep their home warm during winter while reducing their utility bills. (Courtesy photo by <http://greeningwingrove.org.uk>)

Heating Tips:

- Clean or replace filters on furnaces monthly (or as recommended).
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators. Make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- Eliminate air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season (contact a professional if unsure how to perform this task).
- Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are finished cooking/bathing.
- Keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day but close at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
- Use a programmable thermostat to lower your home temperature when it is unoccupied or through the night after bedtime.
- If you don't have a programmable thermostat, consider purchasing one compatible with your heating system. The estimated annual cost savings, assuming a setback of 8 degrees, is \$180. Many utility companies offer [rebates](#) to customers who purchase a programmable thermostat.

Resources:

[Home Heating Systems](#). U.S. Department of Energy
[Proper Use Guidelines for Programmable Thermostats](#). Energy Star, U.S. EPA

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