

The Buzz

SAVING ENERGY—GOOD FOR YOUR WALLET AND THE PLANET
SPRING 2011



Make every day Earth Day

You can build on our nation's 41 years of Earth Day celebrations with energy-saving actions that range from lowering your thermostat or signing up for your utility's green power programs to outfitting your home with the latest in energy-efficiency options or investing in solar power. Make a commitment to complete five actions and you can help secure a clean energy future.



Energy in Action:

If every American replaced just one light with a compact fluorescent light bulb, we would prevent nine billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to keeping two-thirds of Portland metro-area cars off the road for a year.

Borrow a Kill A Watt monitor from your library

Energy Trust of Oregon and your local library are joining forces to make Kill A Watt® monitors available for check-out. Kill A Watt monitors measure the energy usage of your household appliances and electronics. By finding out how much energy your electronics are using, and then making energy-saving adjustments, you can take charge of your electricity use and lower utility costs year-round. Visit

www.energytrust.org/checkoutsavings to find participating libraries near you.

Request a free Energy Saver Kit

Saving energy and water doesn't have to cost money. Heating customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas can request a free Energy Saver Kit from Energy Trust filled with four compact fluorescent light bulbs, two high-performance faucet aerators and one high-performance showerhead.

Take charge of the little things

The first step to saving energy and money is doing the little things around your home that can make a big difference. Everyone can follow these low- and no-cost tips to save energy and money in their homes:

No-cost

- Unplug battery chargers for power tools, mobile phones, laptops and other devices when not in use.
- Turn off lights when not needed.
- Use a countertop convection, microwave or smaller electric appliance, instead of a full-size stove whenever possible.
- Turn down the thermostat to 65–68 degrees during the day and 58–60 degrees at night during cooler months.
- Wash and rinse laundry with cold water. To save more energy and water, run full loads.
- Check to make sure refrigerator and freezer gaskets seal tightly.

Low-cost

- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with CFLs.
- Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Caulk small holes and cracks around plumbing pipes, exhaust fans, dryer vents, sink and bathtub drains, fireplaces and under countertops.



Energy Trust of Oregon is a nonprofit organization that offers advice and cash incentives to make home energy improvements more affordable. Visit www.energytrust.org or call **1.866.368.7878** to kick start your Earth Day pledge.

Serving customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas.



My Earth Day pledge

- Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Turn off lights when not needed.
- Check to make sure refrigerator and freezer gaskets seal tightly.
- Clean or replace filters before and after heating season to help my furnace or heat pump work at peak efficiency.
- Recycle my old fridge or freezer, and call Energy Trust to see if I can get free pickup and \$50 cash.