

Gault Energy

Conservation Calendar



Energy Solutions for a Greener Tomorrow

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Did you know that New England's weather and climate is one of the most varied in the world?

As New Englanders, we've learned to adapt to extreme seasonal fluctuations in temperature, from very hot to icy cold, and, over the years, have endured droughts, heavy rainfall, hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards and more. These great weather variations are influenced by many factors including New England's physical geographical setting, its latitude and its coastal orientation.

Preparing your home to weather these extreme conditions, while at the same time maximizing its energy efficiency and improving its comfort level, is easy and cost-effective if you follow these simple monthly tips. Remember, your initial investment in energy-saving measures can result in a lifetime of savings! And, with home weatherization emerging as a top national priority in the country's efforts to reduce our nation's energy consumption and cut energy costs, making these improvements will pay-off in spades when it's time to sell your home.

JANUARY

- Use caulk or weather stripping to seal up any air leaks from window frames, baseboards, electrical outlet and switch plates, wall- or window-mounted air conditioners, and other openings, such as pipes and wiring coming through ceilings, floors, and walls.
- Use heavy drapes to protect your home from drafty windows.
- Use a throw rug or door stop to keep warm air in and cold air out.
- Make sure your fireplace flue damper is closed when not in use, or install a glass fire screen.
- Replace at least three incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs.



FEBRUARY



- Schedule a Home Energy Audit, which uses state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment to record and quantify a home's energy "shortcomings" and overall health.
- Install storm windows and exterior doors. For older windows, use a plastic window kit to cut drafts and seal in heat. When purchasing new windows and doors, look for the ENERGY STAR label.
- Clean refrigerator condenser coils to ensure it's working as efficiently as possible.

MARCH

THINK SUMMER!

- Inspect and clean your air conditioner or cooling system. A well-maintained unit uses less electricity. Switching to high-efficiency air conditioners and reducing your air-conditioning use can cut your cooling costs by 20 to 50 percent.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Install a whole-house fan in your attic to draw cool air inside through windows and force hot air out through attic vents.
- Ensure your property has healthy trees, which can help shade your home in summer and rid the air of harmful carbon emissions.
- Install ceiling fans, particularly in homes with tall ceilings to cool homes in summer and to recirculate the hot air that rises in winter.
- Replace at least three incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs.

APRIL

- Prepare southern-exposure windows to let in the sun's natural warmth and light.
- Clean gutters and downspouts to ensure proper water drainage away from your home's foundation and roof.
- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Clean refrigerator condenser coils.
- Insulate recessed lights.
- Clean out attic and basement.



Earth Day
4/22!

MAY

- Check and replace furnace and central air filters as needed.
- Refresh or replace attic insulation to ensure efficient heating and cooling of home.
- If you have central air-conditioning, keep the condenser unit's coils and fins clean. Remove grass, leaves, and other debris that may collect on them.
- Perform bi-annual cleaning of clutter around your boiler/furnace.
- Clean out your dryer hose to minimize risk of fire.
- Fix leaky faucets.
- Install a low-flow shower-head.
- Replace at least three incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs.



JUNE

- Review your previous winter's oil consumption to begin planning for next winter.
- Enroll in the home heating oil price plan that best suits your needs and budget.
- Clean refrigerator condenser coils.
- Set your air conditioner to no cooler than 78 degrees. Setting your air conditioner lower than 78 degrees can increase your costs by up to 40 percent.
- If you have central air, block the vents in unoccupied rooms.
- Clean or replace air conditioner filters at least once a month during the cooling season.
- Purchase energy efficient fans. Fans use far less energy than air conditioners and often can provide the same cooling effect.
- Alternate the use of air-conditioning and fans. When you're comfortable, shut down your air conditioner and turn on the fan. This approach can cut air conditioner use by up to 40 percent.
- Shade windows that face south, east, and west. Keeping windows, drapes, and shades closed during the day helps keep unwanted heat out of your home. About 40 percent of unwanted heat comes in through windows.

JULY

THINK WINTER!

- Schedule your annual heating system clean, tune and test.
- Weather strip and caulk leaking windows and doors.
- Seal unused electrical outlets, indoors and outdoors, so cold air cannot sneak into your home.



- Replace light switches with dimmers or motion sensors.
- Replace at least three incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs.

AUGUST

- Inspect, seal and insulate air ducts to ensure adequate air flow and to eliminate any loss of heated or cooled air.
- Insulate hot water pipes and wrap your hot-water storage tank with an insulation blanket, even if it's a newer model.
- Wrap with insulation any hot-water pipes that pass through unheated spaces. For steam pipes, use non-foam insulation, as foam can melt.
- Place reflectors between walls and radiators to reduce heat lost into exterior walls.
- Replace cracked window panes.
- Clean refrigerator condenser coils.



SEPTEMBER

- Remove air conditioning units from windows or cover tightly.
- Replace at least three incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs.



OCTOBER

- Clean refrigerator condenser coils.
- Clean out attic and basement.
- Close doors and warm-air vents in unused rooms, but in extreme cold be aware of water pipes that could freeze and burst.
- Use an efficient humidifier to maintain comfortable humidity levels and help you conserve heat. Proper humidity helps you feel comfortable without turning up the heat.

NOVEMBER

- Drain all hoses, outdoor faucets and sprinkler systems before the freeze.
- Check and clean gutters and downspouts to ensure proper water drainage away from your home's foundation and roof.
- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Replace at least three incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs.

DECEMBER

- Invest in energy-saving LED holiday lights for an 88% savings on your electric bill.

