

UTILIZING ENERGY STAR PRODUCTS FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION

by
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Since 1991, Energy Awareness Month has been celebrated throughout the month of October by encouraging governmental organizations to promote the importance of energy conservation, sustainability, and awareness. It is imperative that our nation's energy resources are used responsibly. The Department of Energy (DOE) sponsors efforts to promote the understanding of the nation's energy needs and provides information on key ways the public can help reduce their energy footprint by reducing waste.

ENERGY STAR is a national program run by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DOE. ENERGY STAR products meet strict energy-efficiency requirements set by the EPA. Over the past 25 years, ENERGY STAR and its partners helped American families and businesses save nearly 4 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity and achieve over 3 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas reductions, equivalent to the annual emissions of over 600 million cars. A typical household can save around \$575 on their energy bills by using ENERGY STAR products.

Among the many products with an ENERGY STAR label, the biggest return on investment can be use of a smart thermostat. Smart thermostats can be set on a schedule to maximize efficiency and reduce energy waste. Some thermostats have the ability to learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving temperatures when you are asleep or away. You can even control your homes heating and cooling remotely by using a smartphone while you are out. Smart thermostats can also provide home energy use data that you can track and manage. If everyone used an ENERGY STAR certified smart thermostat, savings could grow to \$740 million per year and 56 trillion BTUs of energy.

By properly recycling your old refrigerator and replacing it with a new ENERGY STAR certified one, you can save in excess of \$300 over 5 years.¹ ENERGY STAR refrigerators are about 15 percent more efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard. If all refrigerators sold in the U.S. were ENERGY STAR certified, the energy cost savings would grow to nearly \$700 million each year and 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions could be prevented, equivalent to the emissions from more than 870,000 vehicles.

ENERGY STAR certified dishwashers have “smart” features that minimize water use and demand on the water heater, and allow for quieter operation and less pre-rinsing. Construction includes more effective washing action, energy-efficient motors, and other advanced technology, such as sensors that determine the length of the wash cycle and the temperature of the water necessary to clean the dishes. When shopping for a new dishwasher, consider how much water the dishwasher uses per cycle—less water means less cost to operate. To save even more energy, avoid using the heated dry cycle. Instead, let your dishes air dry.

AS of 2018, 90% of the nation's top homebuilders build ENERGY STAR certified homes. ENERGY STAR certified homes are at least 10% more energy efficient than homes built to code and achieve a 20% improvement on average, while providing homeowners with better quality, performance, and comfort. Programs such as Home Performance with ENERGY STAR and ENERGY STAR Verified HVAC Installation help homeowners find qualified participating contractors in their area. Using tools such as

¹ *ENERGY STAR facts and statistics originated on the website www.energystar.gov

ENERGY STAR Home Advisor and the Home Energy Yardstick available on the ENERGY STAR website, homeowners can maximize their energy savings.

There are many other useful links and rebate programs found on the ENERGY STAR website such as an Energy Treasure Hunt, conducting energy audits, product finder, tax credits, energy saving tips and more. The ENERGY STAR website has material on saving energy in commercial and industrial buildings, as well. For more information go to www.energystar.gov.