

Saving energy on heating

Easy things you can do to save energy and money.



Heating your home is one of the most significant energy investments you can make. By following these simple guidelines, you can increase energy efficiency and better manage your energy costs.

Ways to manage your heating costs

Tune up for efficiency

- Maintaining an efficient heating system is an important step to conserving energy. Have your heating system serviced annually, and never try to repair it yourself.
- If your heating system has a filter, clean or replace it every month during the heating season.
- Heating equipment needs air to work properly and efficiently. Don't close it off with walls, debris or other obstructions.
- If your heating equipment is near the end of its lifespan, it might be time to think about a high-efficiency replacement before the heating season starts. Rebates available at: ngrid.com/uny-heatrebates.

Turn down for savings

- For every 1° F you set your thermostat back, you can save one to three percent on your annual heating costs.
- Turn down the thermostat every time you leave the house for two or more hours, and every night before you go to bed. It takes less energy to warm up a cool house than to maintain a warm temperature all day and night.
- Installing a programmable thermostat is an inexpensive, easy way to maintain comfort and cut heating costs. You can program it to turn the heating system up and down at preset times. Smart thermostats will do this automatically for you. Get instant rebates on thermostats at ngrid.com/shop.

Insulate

- Insulate your attic, walls, ceilings and floors to prevent heat escaping to the outdoors. Insulation improves your comfort as well as the efficiency of your home—and that means more savings for you.
- Take advantage of the sun: open drapes during the day to capture warmth and close them at night to prevent heat loss through windows.

Seal air leaks

- Cold air let in by air leaks can increase your energy use, so seal all holes and cracks where cold air can get in, especially in the attic and basement.
- Other air-sealing tips include shutting off heat to unused rooms and closing the fireplace damper when not in use.
- Remove window air conditioning units during the cold months to reduce drafts. If this isn't possible, cover the inside and outside of the unit.
- You can also move furniture to warmer spots in the room to avoid cold drafts and stay more comfortable.

Be cautious with portable space heaters

Portable space heaters help add warmth to your home but they can actually increase your energy costs and pose a safety hazard as well.

To use space heaters safely:

- If you use oil, gas, kerosene or wood-burning stoves they must be vented to the outdoors
- Never use gas ovens for heating. They're not vented and will add to heating costs.