To Do

Today

- ☐ Water heaters should be turned down to 120^{0}F, the medium setting. Less heat will be lost trying to maintain greater hot water temperatures.
- ☐ If your appliances allow, start using energy saving settings. Newer refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and clothes dryers often offer these options.
- ☐ Turn off lights when you leave a room. Leaving lights on when not necessary adds up to lots of extra energy use over time.
- ☐ You can replace your incandescent lights with compact fluorescents or LEDs. These new bulbs can save 3/4 or more electricity over incandescents.
- ☐ Clean or replace your boiler/furnace filters and the refrigeration coils on the back of your refrigerator. This should be done every six months.

This Week

- ☐ Purchase a water heater blanket. If your water heater is old and is covered by fiberglass insulation you will benefit even more from an insulating blanket.
- ☐ Buy "smart" surge protectors, low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators, and adjustable timers for electric water heaters and outdoor car plug-ins. "Smart" surge protectors turn off power to a set of electronics (DVD player, cable boxs, etc.) when a "master" (such as your TV) is turned off. Additionally, the surge protector can be shut off to reduce standby electric losses. Plug-in timers allow electricity use to be targeted during times when it is needed.
- ☐ Adjust your thermostat to low settings at night and when you leave your home for the day. For convenience you can purchase a programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts temperature based on settings of your choice.
- ☐ Seal or caulk around windows, doors, log joints, or other areas with potential for air leakage. Start with the largest leaks, like utility cut-throughs, gaps around chimneys, cracks around recessed lighting fixtures, and unfinished parts of closets or behind cupboards.
- ☐ Insulate hot water pipes with foam insulation wherever they are exposed to unheated areas.

This Month

- ☐ Schedule an energy audit. This can be done independently or in conjunction with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's (AHFC) *Home Energy Rebate Program*. Energy auditors check for air-tightness, run energy modeling programs to show you where improvement can be made to increase the energy efficiency of your home, and provide suggestions based on their findings.
- ☐ If you cannot hire an energy rater, inspect insulation in your attic, crawlspace, and around your foundation.
- ☐ Start collecting utility bills. Assess the largest bills and target those first. Monitor your progress each month.
- ☐ Assess your current heating system. If replacement is needed start researching your options.

This Year

- ☐ Insulate, insulate, insulate. Target roofs, foundations, and walls. Each home will have different needs so work with your energy rater or contractor to determine where the largest gains can be made.
- ☐ Assess your ventilation systems air exchange rate for current and future requirements. In cold climates proper ventilation can save you energy and prevent moisture damage to your home. Ventilation systems should be sized properly so they don't over or under ventilate. HRV intake vents should be inspected every two months and HRVs should be maintained yearly by cleaning and changing filters.
- ☐ Upgrade old or leaky windows and doors. For example, going from an inefficient, sliding-window to an efficient, sealing, casement-window will help improve the air tightness of your home and save you energy. An energy audit will help you decide if it is cost efficient.
- ☐ Evaluate your appliances. As appliances age replace them with new, more energy efficient models.

Resources

Cold Climate Housing Research Center
Researches building construction methods and home energy options suited for cold climates.
- www.cchrc.org
- www.cchrc.org/portal
- Call for appointments with a building educator

Cooperative Extension Service
Offers publications, written and produced by university specialists, which contain practical information related to the home, including energy use and building construction.
- www.uaf.edu/ces

Alaska Center for Energy and Power
Performs applied energy research and testing to lower the cost of energy throughout Alaska.
- www.uaf.edu/acep

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Provides Alaskans access to safe, quality, affordable housing and administers the *Home Energy Rebate Program*
- www.ahfc.state.ak.us

Alaska Energy Authority
Aims to reduce the cost of energy in Alaska.
- www.aidea.org/AEA/PDF%20files/alaska_tips_final.pdf

Department of Energy
Offers energy efficiency and energy production information.
- www.energy.gov

Energy Star
Provides information on making energy-efficient choices for your home or business, including products, energy systems, and tax incentives.
- www.energystar.gov/

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
Advances energy efficiency through analysis and eduction.
- www.aceee.org/

Cold Climate Housing Research Center

Our mission is promoting and advancing the development of healthy, durable, and sustainable shelter for Alaskans and other circumpolar people. CCHRC is dedicated to research that improves the durability, health, energy-efficiency, and affordability of shelter for cold climate regions.

Save energy
Save money

its easier than you think...

For homes in cold climates

Saving energy in your home means you can save money every day. With the rising cost of energy comes a greater need to develop and use energy saving methods like:

- Efficient energy heating, ventilating, and lighting systems
- Effective building methods
- The right construction materials

Some of the tips listed in this pamphlet will save you money instantly while others cost a little up front—but will pay for themselves, and more, in the long term. Any way you lay it out, the foundation for spending less on energy in your home starts with energy efficiency.

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This information is brought to you by:

Home Energy Savings

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