



# MARIN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## **ENERGY SAVING TIPS**

This form will guide you through your home or business to find additional ways you can save energy and money. This form is for your personal reference.

### **Homes or Businesses**

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- Check your faucets for leaks. They waste both water and energy.
- Check, clean and replace furnace, air-conditioner, and heat-pump filters as needed.
- Going on vacation? Many new water heaters have a "vacation" setting you can use to save energy if you're away for more than a few days. Turn the thermostat "down" or "off" when you're gone for more than three days.
- Consider replacing halogen torchiere floor lamps. Although they have become popular, they are quite inefficient. They consume 300-600 watts of electricity and direct the light to the ceiling. Try replacing them with lamps that face down and use compact fluorescent lights when possible.
- Consider integrating energy design into any new homes or businesses. To find out more visit: <http://www.energydesignresources.com/index.php>.

### **Web links to energy saving products**

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- Hardware and appliances: <http://www.energyguide.com/> and <http://www.efi.org/>
- Office equipment: <http://www.aceee.org/pubs/o2.htm>
- Products: <http://www.aceee.org/consumerguide/eprodlnk.htm>
- Rebates: [www.pge.com/res/rebates](http://www.pge.com/res/rebates)
- Washing machines: <http://www.aceee.org/consumerguide/topwash.htm>

### **Outside**

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- Plant native vegetation to reduce water use and consider planting shade trees and shrubs around the building, especially the west side, to reduce energy spent on air conditioning.
- Install drip irrigation on a timing system and remember to water vegetation at night or in the mornings to conserve water and energy.

### **Kitchen**

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- Install your range away from your refrigerator or place a sheet of foam insulation between them. The range's heat makes the refrigerator work harder.
  - Check your range hood to ensure that it ventilates to the outside and not simply re-circulates and filters the warm air.
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### **Kitchen (continued)**

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- **Gas range:** Check your stove to insure that it gives off a blue flame. A yellowish flame is less efficient and indicates an adjustment is needed.
  - **Electric range:** Keep stovetop burners and reflectors clean - they will reflect the heat better and save energy. You could save as much as 1/3 of the energy used when cooking on top of the stove!
  - **Electric range:** Make sure your stovetop electric coils work properly. A worn-out element is a power drain.
  - **Oven:** Consider installing a new convection oven. These are new designs that continually circulate heated air around the food being cooked. Convection ovens distribute heat more evenly than ordinary ovens, so cooking time and cooking temperatures can be reduced, cutting energy use by about a third, on average.
  - Clean with cold water, as much as possible, to save the energy used to heat water.
  - Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). Note: homes with old dishwashers and with no built in temperature boosters may need water heaters set at 140 degrees for proper cleaning.
  - Use a pressure cooker when possible. By cooking food at a higher temperature and pressure, cooking time is reduced dramatically and energy use is cut by 50 to 75 percent.
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### **Bedrooms**

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- If you have a waterbed, keep covers on it. The covers will insulate it and save up to one-third of the energy it uses.
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**Know that you are making a difference!**