

- For winter, install and use a whole-house humidifier. Adding humidity to your home's air in dry winter months "holds" heat more efficiently and allows you to run your heat less. You can even set your temperature lower and still feel as comfortable as you would at higher heat settings because the moisture retains that heat. Moisture is also good for the wood in your home (flooring, furniture, pianos, etc.) by preventing shrinkage.
- Large flat panel TV's use significant amounts of electricity, and they still consume some energy even when they are "off". Consider unplugging them when not in use, or install a surge protector for your TV/entertainment systems that can be turned off when not in use. You can also put these devices on a timer.



- Report your actual meter-reading to JCP&L online each month. JCP&L will often use estimated readings based on past energy usage. Reading your own meter and reporting it online ensures that you pay for only what you use each month, not what JCP&L estimates you use.

- Clean or change/replace the air filters in your HVAC system at least every 90 days. This allows air to flow through your system more easily, helping your system to run more efficiently. A dirty filter causes your system to use more energy to circulate air through your home.
- Purchase an "In Home Display" device (near the thermostats in stores). It easily connects to your outdoor meter, with a wireless remote display inside that shows actual energy usage at an given time. Another option is to install a 'smart meter.' Becoming informed and aware of your energy usage is the greatest means by which to reduce it. These displays allow you to see and understand how much energy you are using, and as you turn appliances off, you can literally "see" your energy savings in real-time.

Want to do more? Consider having a home energy audit performed on your home. An energy auditor can find where your home is wasting energy, and make recommendations for improvement.

For details about home energy audits, rebate programs, and further ideas about reducing energy usage, visit the website of the NJ Office of Clean Energy at:

[www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com)

CHESTER ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

1 PARKER RD., CHESTER NJ 07930  
(908) 879-5100 x823

[WWW.CHESTERTOWNSHIP.ORG/ENVIRONMENTAL-COMMISSION.HTML](http://WWW.CHESTERTOWNSHIP.ORG/ENVIRONMENTAL-COMMISSION.HTML)

# REDUCE

YOUR ENERGY USAGE...

# LOWER

YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL!



We hope you will try these easy tips for saving electrical energy and reducing your electricity bill, without having to make major investments!

*brought to you by the  
Chester Environmental Commission*

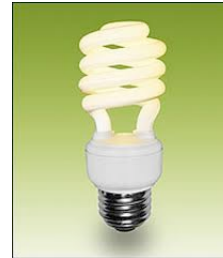
# Easy Ways to Lower Your Electric Bill

- Contact JCP&L and have them install a “Time of Use” electric meter on your home. This costs nothing and this meter allows residents to pay approximately 50% for electricity per kilowatt-hour for “off-peak” hours (8pm – 8am weekdays, and 8pm F – 8am M on weekends).
- Use your major electrical appliances (water heater, dryer, dishwasher, pool pump, a/c, etc.) during off-peak hours as much as possible ... why not run them at half the cost of peak rates?
- Become aware of and carefully manage your electrical *load*. The more appliances/electricity you use at once, the more load your home pulls from the electrical grid, and the higher rate you pay, in off-peak or peak hours. In other words, run your appliances separately ... don't run the dryer at the same time you run the dishwasher, and run them all at off-peak hours. Stop using the ‘heated dry’ feature on your dishwasher ... it's an unnecessary energy waster.
- If you have an electric hot water heater, put a timer on it. This can be obtained easily at a home center; install it yourself or have a contractor install it. It works just like a timer you would use for lights. An electric hot water heater is one of the largest consumers of electrical

energy in a home. If you put it on a timer, and run it only at off-peak hours, the savings is enormous. Hot water heaters do not need to run all day in order to provide hot water all day. In fact, they can be on for only a few hours (say 4am to 7am) and still provide plenty of hot water. The timers also have switches that allow you to turn the heater off completely when you leave on weekends, vacation, travel, etc. Why run it at all when you are not home for a few days or weeks? When you turn it back on, you have hot water in a matter of a few minutes ... they heat up very quickly.

- Same for pool pumps, which use high amounts of electricity. Run them at night on a timer, at off-peak rates.

- Install compact fluorescent bulbs for indoor and outdoor lighting, along with motion sensors and timers to keep outdoor lights off when not in use.



- Simply turn off lights/TV's/video games, etc. when you leave a room.
- Add insulation to the attic, and caulk air leaks around windows and doors. Purchase a window insulating kit. This easily installs with tape and a hair dryer. The plastic film creates ‘dead air space’ between the window and the room, and effectively helps prevent heat loss.

- Install and properly use a programmable thermostat for your HVAC system. Be sure to replace each thermostat you have with a programmable one. Adjusting your temperature set points just a degree or two higher or lower while you are home, and more while you are away (at work, on vacation, etc), will provide tremendous energy savings. If you have a larger home and have “hot” or “cold” spots in your house, and find that you are constantly adjusting your thermostat to compensate for these parts of the house, it will likely be worthwhile to have a contractor install separate thermostats to create more “zones”. The more zones you have in a home, each with their own thermostat control, the greater energy savings you can achieve by only heating/cooling the parts of the house you use at any given time, rather than trying to heat/cool the whole place all the time. On cooler summer evenings, turn your a/c off and just run the system's “fan only” to circulate cool air through your house. Running just the fan instead of the a/c compressor saves huge amounts of energy.

