



Saving Energy and Resources = Saving Money

Conserving energy and natural resources is smart. It's good for your wallet and the environment. Most of the conservation efforts listed below can be implemented with little or no expense.

FIRST THINGS FIRST - CHECK THE FURNACE AND THE AIR CONDITIONER

The furnace and air conditioner are the biggest drains on the electric bill during peak seasons.

- ✓ Have air conditioning and furnace equipment cleaned or inspected annually for efficiency.
- ✓ Use a digital programmable thermostat. Program the temperature to be lower (cooler) in winter when no one is at home or adjust temperature for sleeping comfort. For every degree the temperature is lowered in winter or raised in summer, there is a two to three percent reduction in energy cost.
- ✓ Ceiling fans can provide a cooling breeze in summer and push the heat down from the ceiling in winter.
- ✓ Allow sunlight to add heat to the home in winter by keeping blinds and curtains open in the daytime and closed at night on colder days. In the summer, keep blinds and curtains closed when the sun is its brightest.
- ✓ Check the vents in each room and remove anything that obstructs the free flow of air such as drapes or furniture. Use air diverters to redirect the flow out into the room instead of up the wall. Close vents in rooms that are not in use and keep the door to that room closed.
- ✓ For the most efficient use of heating and air conditioning dollars, deal with those drafts:
 - For light switches and outlets located on outside walls, install weather seals between the wall and outlet plate. Be sure to check areas where plumbing, duct work or electrical wiring penetrates an outside wall. Replace worn weather stripping and caulk.
 - Install storm doors and windows for an extra level of insulation. Insulate the attic first, then basement and crawlspace.



PROPER CARE AND USE OF APPLIANCES AND FIXTURES MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE



- ✓ Wash clothes in cold versus hot water whenever possible.
- ✓ Clean the dryer's lint filter every load.
- ✓ Dry clothes on a clothesline whenever possible.
- ✓ Remove clothes from the dryer before they begin to wrinkle, and don't over dry clothes.
- ✓ Inspect and clean the dryer vent hose to ensure the free flow of exhaust. A clogged exhaust increases drying time.
- ✓ Set the temperature in the refrigerator between 37 and 40 degrees. The freezer should be 5 degrees.
- ✓ Keep the refrigerator and freezer motor clean. Dust accumulating on the motor causes the compressor to work harder.
- ✓ Check the seal on the refrigerator and oven doors by closing the door over a piece of paper and trying to pull the paper out. If the paper slides out easily, the seal should be replaced.
- ✓ Keep the refrigerator door shut as much as possible; energy escapes each time the door is opened.
- ✓ Defrost the freezer if there is more than a 1/4" of ice.
- ✓ Always allow foods to cool before placing them in the refrigerator or freezer. And cover food and liquids, as they release moisture when stored in the refrigerator and cause it to work harder.
- ✓ Run the dishwasher only with a full load. Turn off the heat dry cycle and let the dishes air dry. There is no need to rinse the dishes before placing them in the dishwasher unless food is burned or dried on.
- ✓ Lower the thermostat on the water heater to 120 degrees.
- ✓ Avoid opening the oven while baking, as 20 % of the heat inside escapes every time the door is opened. Turn the oven off just before the food is finished; the remaining heat will finish the cooking.
- ✓ Always use lids on pot and pans and select the correct burner size; energy is wasted if the burner is larger than the pan.
- ✓ Use Energy Star rated appliances. They use far less energy and water resources.



WATER CONSERVATION INSIDE THE HOME



- ✓ Check faucets and pipes for leaks. A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons. Be sure to check outdoor faucets as well.
 - ✓ Check toilets for leaks. Put a little food coloring in the toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, it is an indication of a leak needing repair. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.
 - ✓ For new installations, consider buying "low flush" toilets, which use 1 to 2 gallons per flush instead of the usual 3 to 5 gallons. Replacing an 18 liter per flush toilet with an ultra-low volume (ULV) 6 liter flush model represents a 70% savings in water flushed and will cut indoor water use by about 30%. Placing filled plastic bottles or a float booster in an older toilet tank can save ten or more gallons of water per day.
- ✓ Consider installing a timer if there is an exhaust fan or heat lamp in the bathroom.
- ✓ The single best home water conservation effort is to fit all household faucets with aerators. It is also the cheapest solution! Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators. They are inexpensive and easy to install. Being conservative with the amount of time in the shower can save five to ten gallons for every unneeded minute.
- ✓ The water meter can be used to check for any hidden water leaks. Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- ✓ Insulate water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. Water will heat faster avoiding wasted gallons running the water waiting for it to heat up.
- ✓ Modifying daily repetitive behaviors such as turning off the water after wetting the toothbrush when brushing teeth or rinsing the razor in the sink rather than leaving the water running. Use the dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads or adjust the water level to match the size of the load.

OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

- ✓ Plant drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants.
- ✓ Replace herbaceous perennial borders with native plants, which will use less water and have a higher resistance to plant disease. By planting in slopes, the plants will retain water and help reduce runoff.



- ✓ Adding a layer of mulch around trees and plants slows evaporation and has the added benefit of discouraging weed growth.
- ✓ Water the lawn only when it needs it. Allow the grass to grow to three inches tall to improve water retention in the lawn and soil. When it is necessary to water the lawn, let the water soak down to the roots where it will do the most good.
- ✓ Water during the early parts of the day; avoid watering when it's windy. Be careful to place sprinklers so that all of the water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas.
- ✓ There are several solutions for conserving the amount of water used to water shrubs, flower beds and lawns, such as the use of soaker hoses, rain barrel water catch systems, or a drip irrigation system.
- ✓ Don't let the hose run while washing the car. Clean the car using a pail of soapy water. Use the hose only for rinsing - this simple practice can save as much as 150 gallons when washing a car. Use a spray nozzle when rinsing for more efficient use of water. Better yet, use a waterless car washing system.
- ✓ Use a broom, not a hose, when cleaning driveways and sidewalks.
- ✓ Water and energy conservation comes naturally when everyone in the family is aware of its importance and parents take the time to teach their children the importance of being responsible stewards.



OTHER ENERGY & RESOURCE SAVERS:

By enrolling in E-Bill, customers receive their utility bills via e-mail. The bill actually arrives a few days earlier than those who use paper statements. E-Bill saves time, material, and postage fees. E-Bill helps the Utility keep costs down for all customers and it is earth friendly.

The most cost efficient method for paying your Utility bill is by electronic draft. The Direct Debit process allows customers to have their payments drawn from a specified account on the latest possible date. One big advantage of Direct Debit is that the customer will never pay another late penalty. This process saves time, material and energy and helps keep all customers' utility bills down.

Customers can view their utility accounts on-line, make secure payments, view consumption trends, see payment comparisons, submit service requests or send the Utility an e-mail at www.peruutilities.com.