



# October is... Energy Awareness Month

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY – it's a good habit to get into!

Every October a national effort is made to underscore how central energy is to our national prosperity, security, and environmental well-being. In commemoration of National Energy Action and Awareness Month, Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) encourages you to take these simple steps to save energy today, this week, this month, and All Year!



### HOME ENERGY CHECKLIST

#### TODAY

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Know your ENERGY STAR® labeled products.</b> These efficiency rated products can cut your energy bills. Find retailers near you at <a href="http://www.energystar.gov">www.energystar.gov</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Survey your lighting.</b> Replace incandescent and compact fluorescent (CFL) lights with high efficiency <a href="#">light-emitting diodes (LEDs)</a> . LEDs, especially ENERGY STAR® rated products, use about 75% of the electricity than traditional incandescent bulbs, and they last up to 25 times longer. The best targets are light fixtures with 60-100 W bulbs used several hours a day.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Turn off the lights.</b> Hit the switch in unoccupied rooms or consider installing timers, photo cells, or occupancy sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Turn off your computer monitor.</b> Turn off both the CPU and monitors if you're not going to use your computer for more than 2 hours. Learn more about <a href="#">estimating appliance and home electronic energy use</a> at <a href="http://www.energy.gov">www.energy.gov</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Shorten showers to cut hot water costs.</b> Saving Water Saves Energy! Using a timer can help you track and reduce your shower time. Go to <a href="http://www.bewaterwise.com">www.bewaterwise.com</a> to learn more.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Clean or replace filters</b> regularly in your furnace, air conditioner, and heat pump to <a href="#">heat and cool more efficiently</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Check your water heater.</b> The temperature should be between 120°F to 185°F, and ensure it has an <a href="#">insulating blanket</a> . An insulating blanket will pay for itself in one year or less!

## THIS WEEK

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Schedule an on-site energy audit.</b> A professional energy analyst can perform a <a href="#">home energy audit</a> to help identify energy saving opportunities. Connect with the <a href="#">Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA)</a> , or ask your utility company, to find out how you can get a free energy audit for more expert advice.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Unplug to prevent vampire load.</b> Electronics can drain energy when not in use (i.e. cell phone chargers, fans, coffeemakers, desktop printers, radios, etc.). Plug electronics into power strips and turn off the strip when not in use or on vacation. This includes kitchen appliances, computers, and game consoles.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Check for water leaks.</b> Inspect your water pipes, toilets and faucets for leaks and repair any that you find. Call your water provider to get a free leak detection kit or schedule an audit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Install water-saving devices.</b> Look for Energy Star® rated low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, or get a <a href="#">free Energy Efficiency Starter Kit from Southern California Gas</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Assess your heating and cooling systems.</b> Determine if replacements are justified, or whether you should retrofit them to work more efficiently to provide the same comfort (or better) for less energy. Learn about <a href="#">Whole Building Deep Energy Efficiency Retrofits</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Visit the local hardware store.</b> Pick up a water-heater blanket, <a href="#">low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators</a> , caulk, and LEDs, as needed. Use caulk to <a href="#">seal up the largest air leaks</a> , gaps, and holes throughout your house. For deeper savings and reduce air leakage, get a <a href="#">Whole House Air Seal</a> .

## THIS MONTH

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Collect and Review your utility bills.</b> Know what you spend on your energy use. Check utility websites for energy conservation measures and to sign up for e-billing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Insulate your hot water pipes.</b> Insulating pipes prevents heat loss and can <a href="#">reduce your water heating bills</a> . Water heating accounts for 14%-25% of the energy consumed in your home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Insulate heating ducts in unheated areas,</b> such as attics and crawlspaces. Keeping ducts in good repair can prevent heat loss of up to 60% at the registers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Upgrade leaky windows.</b> Replace with energy-efficient models and boost efficiency with weather stripping. The typical home loses more than 25% of its conditioned air through windows.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Install a programmable thermostat.</b> <a href="#">Programmable thermostat</a> that can be adjusted to temperatures according to your schedule and automated systems can help regulate your home comfort and your energy bills. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when replacing your system. Learn about <a href="#">rebates available</a> in your zip code.

## THIS YEAR

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Insulate.</b> If your walls aren't insulated have an insulation contractor check the insulation of your walls. Bring your attic insulation level up to R-44 levels.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Replace aging, inefficient appliances</b> with <b>ENERGY STAR®</b> labeled products. Even if the appliance has a few useful years left, replacing it with a top-efficiency model is generally a good investment. Especially check the age and condition of large appliances like your refrigerator. Always responsibly donate, recycle, or dispose of e-waste.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ensure major home equipment receives professional maintenance.</b> Heating can account for almost half of the average family's winter energy bill. Make sure your furnace or heat pump receives professional maintenance each year. And look for the <b>ENERGY STAR®</b> label when replacing your system.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Reduce your air conditioning costs</b> by <b>planting shade trees and shrubs</b> around your house—especially on the west side.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Finish the checklist</b> , and know that you are making a difference. <b><a href="#">Start Saving Energy Now!</a></b>

These tips were taken from the [Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings](#). For additional information on home energy conservation/efficiency measures, visit the [Consumer Energy Center](#) and the [Home Energy Saver Answer Desk](#).

**VISIT ENERGY.GOV HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS to learn more:**

<http://energy.gov/public-services/homes/home-weatherization/home-energy-audits>.

Thank you for doing your part.

For more energy-related questions and assistance, contact VCREA.

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