

Energy and the Environment

Energy conservation and pollution reduction go hand-in-hand. Energy production often releases arsenic, mercury, and acidic gases that threaten human health and the environment. Put into practice a few simple, convenient ways to conserve energy, help protect the environment, and trim your utility bills.

Did You Know...

- The approximate energy released in the burning of a wood match is 1 British thermal unit (Btu).*
- The total energy used in the U.S. each year is 99.89 quadrillion Btu.*
- The total energy used in Idaho each year is 393.4 trillion Btu.*
- Two-thirds of the energy used in Idaho comes from combustion of nonrenewable energy sources (coal, natural gas, and petroleum) produced outside of Idaho.
- One-half of the electricity used in Idaho is supplied by renewable energy sources such as hydropower.
- According to energystar.gov, the typical single family home's annual energy bill is approximately \$2,200.
- Driving a 25 mile per gallon (mpg) commuter car could save you more than \$100 per month in gasoline costs compared to a 15-mpg truck.
- Schools can save several hundred dollars a month by turning off lights, computers, and air conditioners when not in use.

*Source: Energy Information Administration
www.eia.doe.gov

For More Information

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

State Office

1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0502

Regional Offices

Boise

1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0550
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

Coeur d'Alene

2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

Idaho Falls

900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 528-2650
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

Lewiston

1118 F Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-4370
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

Pocatello

444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

Twin Falls

650 Addison Ave. W,
Suite 110
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 736-2190
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

Web Resources

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Environmental Education Resources
www.deq.idaho.gov/environmental-education-resources

US Environmental Protection Agency

Energy Portal
www.epa.gov/energy/

Energy Efficient Technologies
www.energystar.gov

Energy Information Administration

Energy and the Environment
www.eia.gov/environment/



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Clearing the Air with Energy Conservation



Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov

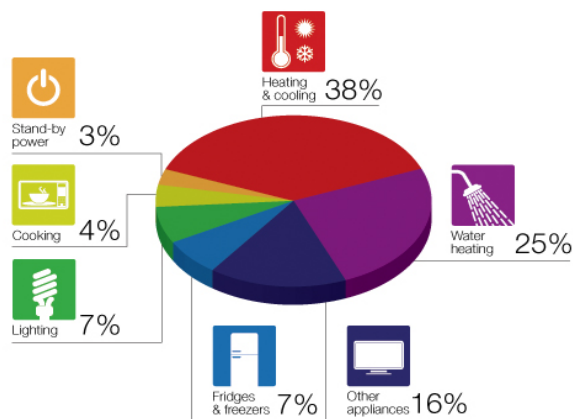


What You Can Do at Home

- **Turn off lights** when you leave the room.
- **Use energy-efficient appliances** (ENERGY STAR qualified products).
- **Turn off your computer monitor** and set the computer to hibernate when not in use.
- **Heat and cool wisely**, and use green power such as solar whenever possible.
- **Insulate walls and ceilings.** Heating and cooling accounts for 38% of the average household's energy consumption.
- **Weatherize your home** or apartment using caulk and weather stripping to plug air leaks around doors and windows.
- **Turn down the water heater thermostat.** Water heating accounts for 25% of the average household's energy consumption.
- **Reduce waste** by reusing and recycling.
- **Be green outside.** Compost food waste and take yard waste to a local composting facility.



Average Household Energy Consumption



What You Can Do on the Road

- **Buy smart.** Consider fuel economy when purchasing a vehicle.
- **Drive smart.** Go easy on the brakes and gas pedal.
- **Tune your ride.** Follow recommended maintenance schedules, use the appropriate grade of motor oil, and check/replace air filters regularly.
- **Check your tires.** Improve fuel economy by properly inflating tires. Under-inflation reduces fuel economy by 0.3% for every 1 pound per square inch drop in pressure of all four tires.
- **Give your car a break.** Use public transportation, carpool, walk, or bike whenever possible.
- **Use renewable fuel.** Use E85 in flex-fuel vehicles and biodiesel as a blended diesel replacement.
- **Avoid idling.** Idling longer than 30 seconds uses more fuel than shutting off and restarting the car.
- **Plan and combine trips.** Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer multipurpose trip.
- **Avoid unnecessary loads.** A loaded roof rack can decrease fuel economy by 5%, and an extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your fuel economy by up to 2%.



What You Can Do at School

- **Power down** your classroom. Turn off computers, lights, and other devices when no one is in the room.
- **Learn** about energy production and its impacts on the environment.
- **Educate** students and staff about how their behaviors affect energy use.
- **Calculate** your school's carbon footprint (see EPA's Climate CHECK or Global Warming Wheel Card Activity Kit at www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/school.html).
- **Encourage** school administrators to earn the ENERGY STAR award.
- **Reduce, reuse, and recycle.** Copy/print on both sides of paper, buy supplies made with recycled content, and recycle used electronics and printer cartridges.
- **Join the Clean Air Zone Program.** Contact your local DEQ office for more information about this anti-idling program.

