

# WINTER ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS



With energy costs top of mind this year, TXU Energy provides several simple and low-cost ways to reduce energy consumption and lower monthly electric costs throughout the winter months.

**CHECK TEMPERATURE SETTINGS** - Weather is a controlling factor in approximately 55% of the total home energy consumption through heating and air-conditioning. Set thermostats at 68 degrees during the winter and even lower when away from the house for more than a few hours. While sleeping, add an extra blanket for warmth. Use a programmable thermostat to turn down thermostats automatically.

**INSTALL WINDOW TREATMENTS** - Install storm or thermal windows and doors or double-paned glass. A less expensive alternative is plastic sheeting, which can be temporarily fastened over doors and windows to prevent drafts and retain heat.

**INSTALL WEATHER-STRIPPING/CAULKING AND INSULATION** - Sealing air leaks with caulking and weather stripping and installing adequate insulation in walls and the attic are some of the most cost effective savings measures you can do in your home.

**CLOSE DOORS** - Keep outside doors closed and try to minimize the number of times they are opened and closed. Each time you open the door cold air enters the house.

**READ ENERGY LABELS** - Review the ENERGY GUIDE label when buying or replacing larger appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, washers and dryers. If you are thinking about purchasing new appliances, including TVs or DVD players, look for ENERGY STAR® models. ENERGY STAR® models use less energy and save money.

**UNPLUG/TURN OFF ELECTRONIC DEVICES** - Turn off the computer when you are not using it. Unplug the video games and turn off the television. Play cards, board games or read your favorite story with family and friends instead.

**INSPECT FURNACE FILTER** - Clean or replace your furnace filter monthly to help it run more efficiently.

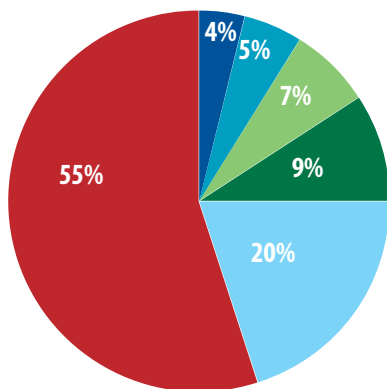
**CHECK WATER HEATER** - Set water heater temperatures at 120 degrees. By lowering the thermostat on the water heater to 120 degrees, families can cut water heating bills without sacrificing comfort. If your water heater is hot to the touch, install a thermal blanket to help retain the heat.

**CLOSE UNUSED HEATING VENTS** - Close outside vents (where applicable), and close dampers on unused fireplaces.

**USE CEILING FANS** - Use ceiling fans on a slow speed with the fan direction UP during the winter. This will push warm air away from the ceiling and move it around the room without creating a cool breeze.

## Estimated Winter Electricity Usage

Source: Office of Public Utility Counsel of Texas at [www.opc.state.tx.us/Electr~1.htm](http://www.opc.state.tx.us/Electr~1.htm)



- Heating and Air Conditioning
- Water Heater
- Lighting, TV, Radio, Stereo
- Refrigerator, Freezer
- Food Preparation
- Washing Machine, Clothes Dryer, Dishwasher

