

Budget Stretching Energy Ideas

Improving Energy Efficiency: Eco Friendly, Wallet Smart

(NAPSA)—Making eco-friendly choices is not just an investment in tomorrow; it is also an investment in your financial health today. Becoming more energy efficient can reduce your carbon footprint and help lower your utility bills—putting money back in your pocket where you need it most.

The average homeowner spends more than \$2,200 a year on energy bills, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—and heating and cooling can account for more than 40 percent of that energy use. To reduce these costs, consider the following:

- **Adjust your thermostat.**

By raising your thermostat just a few degrees in mild temperatures and lowering it in cooler temperatures, you can help your heating and cooling system work less to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature. Programming your thermostat to accommodate your family's time away from home and sleeping schedules will also help to ensure your system is operating only when you need it.

- **Install a dehumidifier.**

Humidity can make the air feel hotter and heavier in warm weather. By removing the humidity, the air will feel drier and cooler and you will be able to rely less heavily on your heating and cooling system to make the air comfortable.

- **Perform regular maintenance.** Clean air filters and make sure the areas around your system are clear of obstructions. Something as simple as ensuring proper insulation can improve the efficiency of your system by as much as 20 percent.

- **Have your existing home comfort system inspected and serviced by a qualified technician.** The technician will make



Making a few eco-friendly heating and cooling choices can help keep your home comfortable and your costs low.

sure your system is working properly and at peak efficiency. A knowledgeable technician will also be able to recommend a new, more efficient replacement system, such as ENERGY STAR-qualified equipment or a two-stage heating and cooling system that offers two levels of operation to improve energy efficiency.

For example, York Affinity air conditioners from Johnson Controls use an industry-leading, two-stage scroll compressor design to operate at partial capacity when conditions are mild—about 80 percent of the time. When temperatures rise and maximum cooling is required, the unit automatically kicks into full capacity. This results in a system that cycles on and off less frequently, consuming less energy and maintaining more precise temperature settings.

- **Save on taxes.** Installing qualified, energy-efficient equipment can mean a tax credit of up to \$1,500 for installation costs, thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

- **Learn more.** To learn more about efficient technologies and products that can help save you money today, visit www.york.com or call (800) 910-YORK.