

# How to Use Energy Wisely

The cost of the energy we use in our homes can be a major expense, and much of the energy comes from a limited supply of non-renewable fuel such as coal, oil and natural gas. There are simple steps you can take to make electricity and natural gas more affordable and at the same time conserve energy and promote cleaner, sustainable energy solutions.

## Become Energy Conscious

The first step in using energy wisely is being aware of how you use energy.

### Average NYS Household

Energy Use	%
Heat & Air conditioning	42%
Water heating	14%
Refrigerator	8%
Lights	8%
All other appliances	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Your energy costs depend on how much energy you use and what rate you are paying. Knowing where and how you use energy will help you find ways to reduce the amount you consume, cut your costs and save energy.

## Be Energy \$mart<sup>SM</sup>

There are plenty of no-cost or low-cost steps you can take to reduce your energy use. For example, raise your thermostat in the summer and lower it in the winter; use your air conditioner less; change your furnace filters regularly; and turn off lights when not in use. Also, when buying appliances, choose models with the ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> label because they can save you up to 30% on your appliance energy costs.

## Understand Environmental Impacts of Energy Production

The different fuels used to produce electricity have vastly different impacts on the environment:

- Fossil fuel sources, including coal, oil and natural gas, can significantly impact the environment through air emissions that contribute to acid rain, global warming and smog. These emissions add to concerns about our health and environmental quality.
- Renewable energy sources—including wind (from wind turbines), solar (from photovoltaics), and hydro (falling water from rivers and dams) have virtually no air emissions.

All suppliers of electricity must now provide you with plain language information that lists the fuel sources used to generate their electricity and certain air emissions that result from that generation. This “environmental disclosure” information is designed to help you understand how your electricity is generated and how producing that energy affects the environment.

### For More Information on Using Energy Wisely

- Call our toll-free Consumer Information Line:  
**1-888-Ask-PSC1 (1-888-275-7721)**
- Visit our Web site:  
**[www.AskPSC.com](http://www.AskPSC.com)**



*printed on recycled paper*