



ICC SMART TIPS TO SAVE THE EARTH & MONEY



April 22nd is Earth Day

Celebrated in the United States since 1970, Earth Day raises awareness about the earth and environmental protections we can all take to ensure a healthy, sustainable habitat is available for generations to come.

Here are a few energy efficiency and conservation tips to follow that are good for the environment and your wallet:

- ✓ Switch to CFL or LED light bulbs. While you pay about \$1 more for a CFL and around \$8 more for an LED, these lightbulbs have significantly longer life spans than incandescent light bulbs and will save you money on your monthly electric bill.
 - 1,200 hours for incandescent
 - 8,000 hours for CFL
 - 25,000 hours for LED
- ✓ Seal air leaks and add insulation in attics, floors over crawl spaces and accessible basement rim joists. Sealing leaks can save homeowners around 15% on heating and cooling costs.
- ✓ Install motion sensor detection lights to reduce energy consumption by approximately 35-45%.
- ✓ Use cold water to wash clothes and save up to 50 cents a load, or around \$175 a year.
- ✓ Turn down your water heater to 120 degrees to save approximately 6-10% each year.
- ✓ Use a power strip for electronic equipment (computers, game consoles, TVs) and turn them off when not in use can save up to \$100 annually.
- ✓ Fix leaky faucets to save approximately \$35 and 1,661 gallons of water annually.
- ✓ Plant shade trees to reduce air conditioning costs by 15 to 50%.
- ✓ Use Energy Star Appliances to save hundreds of dollars on energy bills annually.

For more information on how to reduce your energy usage and save money, visit the ICC's Consumer Page at www.icc.illinois.gov/consumers.