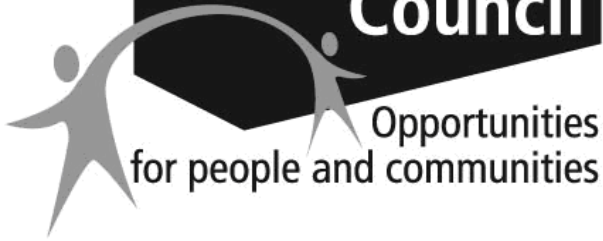


# Minnesota Valley Action Council



## Got a minute? Save hundreds of \$\$\$

Energy Assistance Programs  
464 Raintree Rd  
Mankato MN 56001  
1-800-767-7139  
507-345-6822

### Winter Saving Tips

Saving energy in your home doesn't require a major investment of money or even your time. The tips listed below will cost you little of nothing and could reduce your annual energy bill by 25% or more!

#### Adjust Thermostat Temperature

- Turn down the thermostat. Reduce the temp from 70° to 65° while you are home, and turn it down to 60° or 55° while you're away or asleep.
- Dress in warm - layered clothing.
- Close off an unused room entirely.
- Lock windows, it tightens the seal to stop heat leaks.
- Entertaining friends, turn down the thermostat a degree or two before they arrive. The additional body heat will make up the difference.



#### Furnace systems

- Change furnace filter regularly.
- If you have a natural gas furnace, check the pilot light periodically. It should be steady blue flame.

#### Lighting / Ceiling Fans / Draperies

- Install compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). CFL's use dramatically less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last much longer.
- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Turn off or unplug computer, TVs and other electronic devices when you are not using them or away for a few days.
- Set ceiling fans to run clockwise in the winter. This will draw air up and keep warm air circulating.
- Keep blinds, shades and draperies open during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home, but close them at night for insulation purposes.



#### Insulation

- Make sure the attic, all exterior walls and floors are properly insulated, along with basements or crawl spaces.
- Look for dirty spots in your insulation, which often indicate holes where air leaks into and out of your house.



#### Water heaters

- Set the temperature on your water heater at an appropriate level. 115° or 120° should be warm enough to meet household needs.

#### Other tips

- Close refrigerator door quickly.
- Turn up the temp a few degrees in your refrigerator and save quite a few dollars.
- Don't preheat oven any longer than necessary.
- Keep oven door closed while food is cooking.
- Wash and rinse dishes in double sink and not under running water.
- Use extra blankets instead of electric blankets.
- Take showers that are 7 minutes or less.
- Install high-efficiency showerhead and faucet aerator.
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth.
- Wash only full loads in cold water in clothes washer.
- Dry only full loads in clothes dryer and wash loads back-to-back to take advantage of built-up heat.

