

Prepare:

- Check with your energy provider for billing options that best meet your needs.
- Get an energy audit to identify cost-effective measures to save energy and money.

For Consumers:

Winter energy bills can be tough on household budgets. Prepare now to save energy and money, and keep yourself and your family safe and warm.

- Install energy-efficient light bulbs as an easy, quick way to reduce your electric bill. Look for the Energy Star label.
- Do more to make sure your house is ready for winter:
 - Seal leaks in ducts and cracks in walls, weather-strip doors, and check to see if you have enough insulation. Professional air sealing can make a big difference.
 - Schedule regular furnace and water heater maintenance.
 - Take out window air conditioners and seal any window gaps.
 - Install and use programmable or smart thermostats so homes are kept warm only when they need to be.
- Reduce your electric bills by replacing old refrigerators and other appliances with Energy Star models, and using smart power strips to turn off TVs and other electronics when not in use.
- Save even more energy by unplugging or recycling old “second” refrigerators or freezers that are not really needed.
- Always keep efficiency in mind when buying appliances, TVs and other household items that use energy by choosing products with the Energy Star label.
- An energy assessment or energy audit can help you figure out the most cost-effective ways to winterize your home, from small fixes to big projects.
- Manage your energy bills with payment plans that better match your monthly household budget.

For Low-Income:

Winter energy bills can be tough to handle. Prepare now to save energy, keep energy bills under control, and keep your family safe and warm.

- There are everyday ways everyone can save energy and keep bills under control. And if you rent your home, there are smart steps your landlord can

take as well, in order to save energy and money while keeping tenants comfortable.

- There might be help available to make your home more efficient and less expensive to heat before winter takes hold.
- Depending on your income, you might qualify for a discount on your rent or your heating bills. But funding is limited, so apply early.

For Small Businesses:

For small business owners, winter energy bills can be tough on the bottom line. Plan now to save energy, keep costs under control, and keep your business competitive.

- Make sure your business is ready for winter.
 - Reduce electric bills by installing energy efficient LED lighting and smart power strips that turn off office equipment not in use.
 - Regular maintenance on furnaces, roof-top units, and water heaters keeps them running efficiently and effectively.
 - Air sealing and the right amount of insulation keep heat inside where it belongs, and keep customers and employees safe and comfortable.
 - An energy audit can help you identify cost-effective efficiency upgrades with a return on investment that works for your business.
- Keep efficiency in mind when choosing equipment, fixtures, and appliances.
 - Chose Energy Star labeled monitors, computers and other office equipment to control your electric bill.
 - Install and use programmable or smart thermostats so buildings are kept warm only when they need to be.
 - Incentives might be available to help pay for equipment upgrades.
- Use your energy efficiency investments to position your company as an environmentally friendly business.

For Multifamily Housing:

When a lot of people live in one building, winter energy bills can be a challenge to control. Landlords, tenants, owners and building managers can plan now to save energy and keep costs under control this winter.

- You can act now with low-cost energy efficiency measures, including tuning up boilers and furnaces, installing programmable thermostats, removing window air conditioners, sealing leaky windows and doors with weather strips and caulk, installing high-efficiency LED light bulbs and lighting controls for common-area lighting, and cleaning or replacing filters on air ducts.

- Save energy by replacing old refrigerators and other appliances with Energy Star models, and using smart power strips to turn off TVs and other electronics when not in use, can reduce electric bills.
- Bigger projects - like air sealing, replacing windows and adding insulation through building-wide energy efficiency programs - can offer serious savings on energy costs and an attractive return on investment.