

**CUSTOMER CARE CENTER**

1-888-660-5890

[georgiapower.com](http://georgiapower.com)

**ENERGY INFORMATION**

1-800-524-2421

**OUTAGE LINE**

1-888-891-0938

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

(Utility Locating Service)

1-800-282-7411

**ENERGY STAR PROGRAM**

1-888-782-7937

[energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



**HOW TO SAVE MONEY**  
and save energy.

**GEORGIA**  
**POWER**

A SOUTHERN COMPANY

**GEORGIA**  
**POWER**

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**AT GEORGIA POWER**, we're working hard to provide reliable electric service and keep rates as low as possible.

### ELECTRICITY USE CONTINUES TO GROW

Georgia remains one of the fastest growing states in the nation. Since 1991, we've added 500,000 new customers, and by the end of this decade, we expect to add a half million more.

### INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

To keep up with Georgia's population growth, we plan ahead to ensure we have the systems necessary for a reliable supply of energy. We'll need to invest \$5 billion over the next five years to keep the power flowing in Georgia. Why? Customer use of electricity has increased. The average residential customer today uses 16 percent more electricity than in 1991.

### RISING FUEL COSTS

In addition to the need to invest in power plants, power lines and environmental controls to keep up with increased demand, the cost of fuel used to produce electricity has increased as well.

### INVESTING IN EFFICIENCY

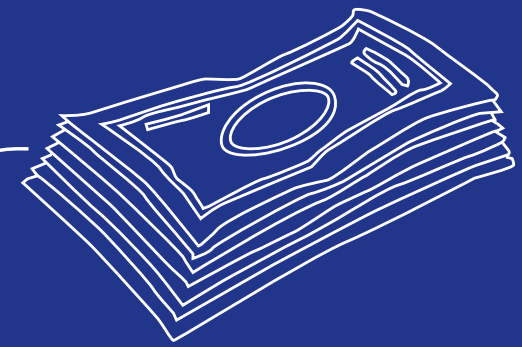
Preparing for the future also means finding more efficient ways to get there. Last year, we helped 40,000 customers use their electricity more efficiently. These customers have learned that investing in energy efficiency measures pays off in energy savings—and saves money.

### ENERGY TIPS – CHECK 'EM OUT AND DO THE MATH

It's amazing what you can save. That household thermostat is like an accelerator on a car, and "turning it up" is the same as "stepping on the gas." Dialing the right setting, while using ceiling fans in the summer or an extra layer of clothing in the winter, can save a good bit of money—at no additional cost to you.

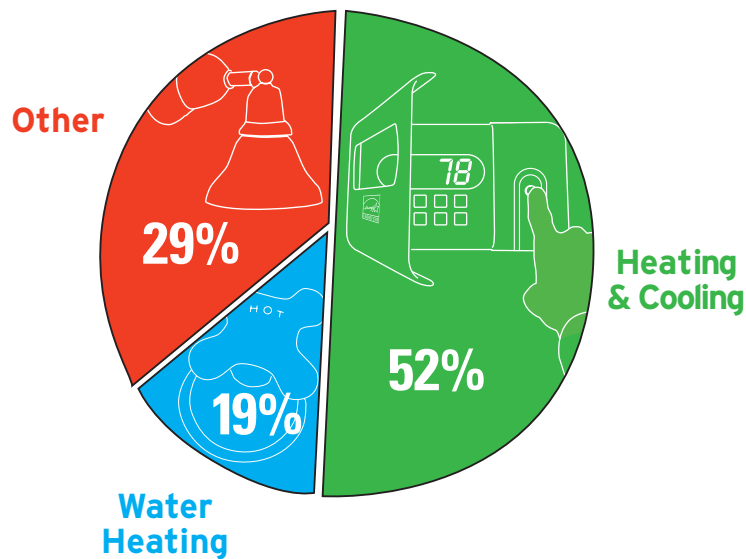
Invest in home efficiency improvements, or an ENERGY STAR® qualified appliance, and your "payback" on that investment can be realized in dollar savings on your utility bills. There are many ways to save and invest in energy saving ideas. Check them out and save all year long.

## HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR ENERGY DOLLARS?



Knowing how you spend your energy dollars is important in understanding how to manage your energy budget. Heating and cooling needs account for about 50% of a home's typical energy usage.

HOW AN AVERAGE HOMEOWNER'S ENERGY DOLLARS ARE SPENT EACH MONTH



Here's a snapshot comparison of the typical energy cost to run an older common appliance around the home for a year versus the typical energy cost of new ENERGY STAR qualified appliances.

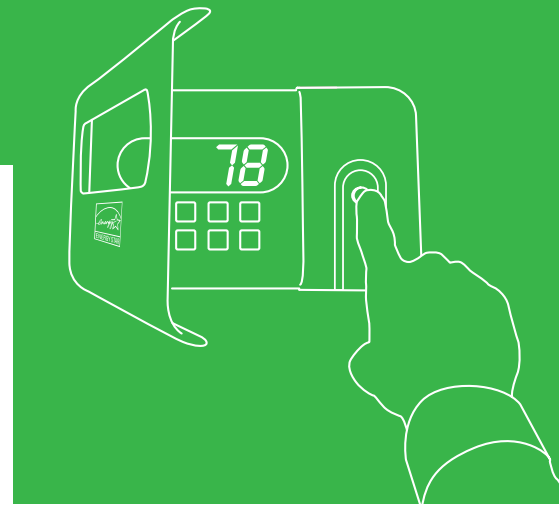
Appliance	1990*	2005**	Annual Savings***
Refrigerator	\$85	\$32	up to \$53
Dishwasher	\$81	\$30	up to \$51
Clothes Washer	\$96	\$20	up to \$76
Freezer (upright)	\$55	\$45	up to \$10

\*Source: Canadian Natural Resources Department—Costs for older appliances based on 1990 average appliance operating costs.

\*\*Source: 2005 costs based on mid-grade ENERGY STAR appliances of the same size except for the clothes washers which are front-loading models instead of top-loading.

\*\*\*Actual savings may vary due to customer usage.

# PRACTICAL WAYS TO LOWER YOUR ENERGY USAGE



There are many steps you can take to save money and energy without impacting your overall quality of life and comfort level.

The following tips under each heading are arranged from those that are inexpensive and easy to implement to those that will require more effort, either in time or money, on your part.

## HEATING & COOLING

- Set your thermostats at 78°F in the summer and 68°F in the winter and leave them there. You can immediately realize a 3% to 5% decrease in energy use for every degree you adjust the thermostat setting above or below your normal setting.
- Make sure furniture, curtains and rugs don't block the flow of air from vents and air registers.
- Maintain heating and cooling unit efficiency by changing your filters monthly during the heating and cooling season. If you have pleated filters, change them at least every three months.
- Clean dust from supply and return air grilles and heating outlets.
- Make sure the caulk and weather-stripping around your windows and doors is in good shape. If the caulk is cracked or the weather-stripping is flat or peeling, replace the old material.
- Seal around wiring and plumbing penetrations. Use caulk for small holes and expanding foam for larger areas. This will keep unconditioned air from entering the house.
- Make sure your ductwork is properly sealed. Cracks in joints and at plenums can cause your heating and cooling bills to increase by as much as 30% and can allow outside air to enter your home.
- Install programmable thermostats to automatically reduce energy usage when you are normally away from home. Programmable thermostats, when used properly, will help you reduce your heating and cooling energy costs.
- Have your heating and cooling system professionally serviced annually to keep them running at top efficiency.

### In the winter

- Open curtains and shades to let the sun warm your home naturally.
- If you have a fireplace, make sure the damper is closed when the fireplace is not in use. This will keep cold air from coming down the chimney and into your home. It also will reduce warm air loss from your home.
- Dress warmly, even indoors. This will allow you to set your thermostat a few degrees lower and still stay comfortable.

### In the summer

- Keep curtains and shades closed during the summer, especially on the east and west sides of your home.
- Avoid using appliances that give off heat during the hottest times of the day as they will make your cooling system work harder. Do your cooking, washing and clothes drying in the morning or in the late evening, when the demand on your cooling system is less.
- Use ceiling fans to take some of the burden off your air conditioner. Ceiling fans can make air feel 6° cooler and allow you to adjust your thermostat to an energy-saving temperature.
- If your cooling system runs continuously, but doesn't seem to be cooling adequately, change your filter. If that doesn't work, have a dealer check to see if refrigerant is low or if the coils are dirty.
- Keep plants and brush at least three feet away from outside units so they can operate more efficiently.

## WATER HEATING

- Turn down your water heater thermostat. A setting of 120°F is adequate for most homes with newer dishwashers.
- Take quick showers instead of baths. This greatly reduces the amount of hot water needed.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. You probably will not notice the difference in water flow, but these fixtures can reduce water consumption by up to 50%.

## REFRIGERATOR

- Refrigerators and freezers can be an area of significant energy loss. Make sure they are as full as possible and that the seals are in good condition. This will cut down on energy escaping when you open the door.
- Avoid putting refrigerators or freezers in unconditioned spaces like garages if possible.
- For best operation, keep your refrigerator's temperature between 37° and 40°.
- Keep food away from the interior walls so cold air can circulate faster.
- Keep your refrigerator condenser coils clean. Clean them every six months.

## DISHWASHER

- Turn off the drying cycle if you do not need to dry dishes immediately.
- Wait until your dishwasher is full before using it. Automatic dishwashers require the same amount of hot water and electricity to wash a partial load as a full load.

## LIGHTING

- Use smaller lamps over work areas such as desktops so work can be done without lighting the whole room.
- Turn off lights when you do not need them and use motion sensors where practical.
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent lighting when possible. These bulbs and fixtures use 2/3 less electricity to produce the same amount of light as incandescent lighting and the bulbs last up to 10 times longer. And, compact fluorescent lights put off less heat, helping you to decrease summer cooling costs.

## WASHER AND DRYER

- Wash clothes in warm or cold water and rinse them in cold water. Use hot water only when necessary.
- Wash a full load at a time but do not overload. A small load in a washing machine consumes just as much energy as a full load.
- When using a dryer, wait until you have a full load. Also, separate drying loads into heavy and lightweight items. The lightweight items take less time to dry, so the dryer doesn't have to be on for as long with these loads.
- Dry clothes in consecutive loads as the dryer will retain heat from the previous load.
- Clean the lint filter thoroughly after each load. A clogged filter restricts the flow of air and reduces the performance of the dryer. Also check the vent periodically to make certain there are no clogs.
- Don't overdry clothes. Taking clothes out when they are slightly damp reduces the need for ironing. Overdrying also causes shrinkage, shortens the life of the fabric, generates static electricity and uses more electricity.



## ADDITIONAL ENERGY SAVING TIPS

The following energy tips will require a larger monetary investment, but, over an extended period of time, will pay for themselves in energy savings. If you have any questions about these savings, please call Georgia Power— The Energy Expert® at **1-800-524-2421**.

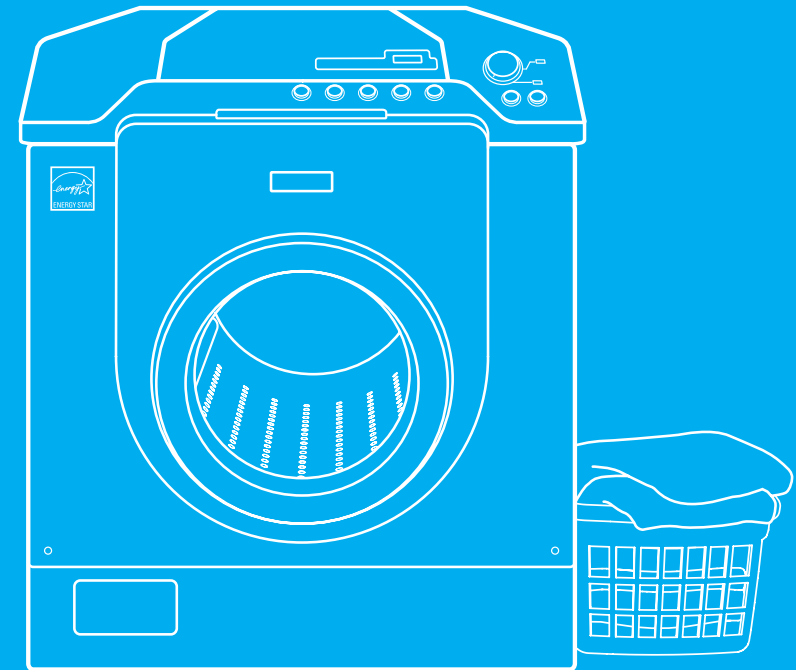
- Install double-paned replacement windows, ENERGY STAR qualified Low-E windows or storm windows. They will greatly reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. They also will help decrease the outside noise that enters your home.
- Consider installing storm doors. Storm doors create a pocket of insulated air space between the door and the storm door, helping to reduce heat transfer into and out of the home.
- Make sure your attic, walls and floors are properly insulated. We recommend R-30 for the attic, R-19 for floors and R-13 for walls. (Homes built after 1978 should have wall insulation.)
- If your water heater is electric, insulate the water tank and pipes. This will reduce the amount of heat lost by water stored in the tank (consult your warranty before insulating your water heater).
- If your water heater is old, install a newer, more efficient unit. Today's water heaters are usually insulated better and have heat traps that reduce heat loss.
- If your heating and cooling system is older, install a more efficient system with a higher SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating). ENERGY STAR qualified heat pumps and air conditioners are about 20% more efficient than current standard models and could be as much as 50% more efficient than units installed prior to 1993. Consider installing an electric heat pump. In the summer, the heat pump is an efficient air conditioner. In the winter, a heat pump works like an air conditioner in reverse. It can extract heat from the outside air—even at freezing temperatures—and transfer the heat into your home.

## GEORGIA POWER IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH ENERGY STAR®

Georgia Power is proud to partner with ENERGY STAR, the government's nationally recognized program committed to helping individuals save money and energy while benefiting the environment through superior energy efficiency. A cornerstone of the ENERGY STAR program identifies and promotes energy-efficient products for residential customers.

In addition, the ENERGY STAR web site and hotline allow you to obtain even more information on products that carry the ENERGY STAR label—information such as savings that can be expected, environmental benefits that will result from using the products, and stores that carry the products. Plus, you can find helpful solutions on how to make your home more energy efficient and comfortable while helping to protect the environment.

Look for the ENERGY STAR label when purchasing a new appliance and visit the ENERGY STAR web site at [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) or call toll free **1-888-STAR-YES (888-792-7937)**.



## OTHER HELPFUL SERVICES

### IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Complete Georgia Power's **Home Energy Check Up** online. Find out how to lower your monthly bill. Choose a five-minute or in-depth energy check up to calculate your savings.
- Take advantage of Georgia Power's **FREE In-home Energy Audit**. An Energy Expert will visit and visually inspect your home and help show you how much you can save on your energy bill. To schedule a free energy audit, call **1-800-524-2421 ext. 200** or visit **georgiapower.com**.

### EARN CREDIT ON YOUR BILL WHILE HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Sign up for **Power Credit**. A program that earns you a \$20 credit on your bill and helps Georgia Power meet demand for electricity during summer peaks. Enroll online at **georgiapower.com\powercredit** or call **1-800-843-4916**.

### MAKE PAYING YOUR BILL EASY

- **e-Bill**: This program allows you to view the last 14 months of your account information over the Internet, monitor your monthly usage and pay your bill (online). Enroll online or at **georgiapower.com** call **1-888-660-5890**.
- **Automatic Bank Draft**: Pay your bill automatically on the day it is due. No more checks to write, stamps to buy or late fees to worry about. Enroll online at **georgiapower.com** or call **1-888-660-5890**.

**Thank you for taking steps to increase your comfort, and save money and energy.**