

# 15 Effective Home Improvement Ideas to Make it Energy Efficient



We are paying for the energy that is wasted in our homes

Americans spend **\$130 billion** a year on wasted energy

## How much Energy Are We Wasting?

The amount of energy wasted by **75,000** average American homes in a single year is equal to the waste that occurred in the 2010 BP Oil Spill

The amount of energy wasted by the US in **2012** could power the United Kingdom for **7 years**

## How to Reduce Energy Wastage

**Replace Incandescent bulbs with LED indoor Lamps**

Saves: **\$40/month**

**Wifi/Learning/Programmable Thermostats**

These are smart thermostats which can be controlled using your phone. They auto adjust based on whether the hour is occupied or not. Can reduce your electric/gas bill by upto \$180/year

Saves: **\$180/Year**

**Change Air filters on time**

If you are using an average of \$100 per month on heating/cooling energy then you can save as much as \$45 if you change your air filter regularly.

**Auto turn off charging stations**

Charges suck as much as 8% of a home's total power for nothing. So use smart charging stations. These charging stations turn off automatically after the device is fully charged.

Saves: **\$180/Year**

**Dual Flush toilets**

These toilets reduce your water wastage as it uses a dual flush which means uses water as you need it. A family of 4 can save as much as \$100/year in water and sewer bill using dual flush toilets

Saves: **\$100/Year**

**Shower head with drip feature**

These shower heads would drip instead of running continuously while you lather a soap. Ideally you want to turn it off completely.

Saves: **\$40/Year**

**Use light dimmers**

Use the brightness only as much as you need using light dimmers. These dimmers can save up to \$15 for every \$100 spent on energy used by bulbs.

Saves: **\$15**

**Set your laptops and desktops to auto shut off**

Instead of keeping it on when you don't need it use the "auto shut off" feature to turn it off when there is no activity on the device.

Saves: **\$30/Year**

**Smart blinds**

Cellular and honeycomb shades will help you reduce both heat loss (up to 86 percent) and gain (up to 80 percent).

Saves: **10-15% per year**

**Use ceiling fan**

In cooler months run the fan clockwise to push the warm air down from ceiling which ultimately reduces the HVAC load by as much as 10%.

Saves: **10%/Year**

**Smart power strips**

Instead of having to unplug umpteen appliances and electronics around the house every night, consider a smart power strip that cuts phantom power from anything plugged into it.

Saves: **\$30/Year in energy costs**

**Stop Using Schedules on outdoor irrigation systems**

This costs you money while you are sleeping. Instead of running irrigation systems on a pre-developed schedule run it manually. This can save \$35/month in water bill

Saves: **\$10/month**

**Motion sensor based outdoor lights**

Perfect for outdoor security. These lights automatically turn on when motion is detected. Can save up to \$10/month as compared to bulbs that always remain on.

Saves: **\$10/month**

**Solar powered outdoor lights**

These lights are charged using solar power and hence will reduce your carbon footprint. Perfect for gardening lights. These can save as much as \$30/year as compared to traditional lights.

Saves: **\$30/year**

**Dusk to Dawn LED bulbs**

Never forget to turn off your outdoor lights because these lights would automatically turn off.

Saves: **\$10/month**

### Sources:

- <https://www.llnl.gov/>
- <https://www.energystar.gov/>
- <http://www.erc-co.org/spooky-statistics-about-energy-and-water-waste/#sthash.mZxyMn1x.dpuf>
- <http://www.ecooptions.homedepot.com/water-conservation/>
- <http://www.ecooptions.homedepot.com/water-conservation/toilets/>
- <http://www.forsy.com/>
- <http://www.forbes.com/sites/trulia/2014/04/11/5-energy-saving-gadgets-that-are-totally-worth-it/>
- <http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/g2359/energy-saving-tips/?slide=6>
- <http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/g2359/energy-saving-tips/?slide=8>
- <http://www.cleanalert.com/home-energy-costs>
- <http://blog.opower.com/2013/08/the-tradition-continues-the-united-states-wastes-more-energy-than-it-uses/>