OREGON HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES Multifamily Energy Program



[Property Name] Energy Guide for Residents

Get to know the energy efficient features of your home!

[Property Name] recently received funding for energy efficient design from the Oregon Housing and Community Services Multifamily Energy Program.

This Energy Guide reviews your home's energy efficient features. The tips and best practices listed here aim to help you maximize energy savings and reduce energy costs.



Energy Efficient Design Features in Your Home

You can find additional information on how to save energy in your home at the following websites: www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-efficient-home-design and www.oregonmultifamilyenergy.com/resident-education-resources

[Property Name] Energy Guide for Residents

Energy Upgrades Installed



Windows

Windows are a significant component of the building envelope. The energy efficient windows recently installed in your building can save energy, reduce heating, cooling, and lighting costs, and improve the comfort of your home.

How You Can Increase Energy Savings

- Be sure to close windows when the heating/cooling system is operating to keep conditioned air inside your home.
- ✓ Use windows shades and curtains to help save energy effectively depending on the season:
 - During hot summer days, keep curtains closed as much as possible throughout the day to reduce the heat coming into your home. If you have horizontal blinds, tilt the front edge of the blinds up. This is especially important during hours of direct sunlight. Windows can stay open while covered when an air conditioning unit is not running.
 - During cold winter days with direct sunlight, keep curtains open to allow the sun to naturally help heat your home. If you have horizontal blinds and prefer them closed for privacy, tilt the front edge of the blinds down so the sun shines on your floor and warms up the room.



Insulation

Insulation in the wall and roof/attic provides resistance to heat flow and lowers your heating and cooling costs. Your building's highly effective insulation not only reduces heating and cooling costs, but also improves comfort.

✓ Sit back, relax, and enjoy the hidden benefits of insulation in your energy efficient home. Insulation is installed in the wall and roof/attic and it's not visible, so you don't have to lift a finger to realize its energy benefits.

ABC Property | Street Address

How You Can Increase Energy Savings

Reduced Air

Leakage

Your property has taken steps to reduce the amount of air that leaks in and out of your home. This helps reduce heating and cooling costs, make your home more comfortable, and create a healthier indoor environment.

- Sources of air leakage develop over time with wear and tear. Notify your property manager if you see any of the following:
 - You can see light between the door or window and the frame
 - Missing or cracked electrical outlets or switch plates
 - Gap around cable line coming from the exterior
 - Ventilation fans, dryer vent, lighting fixtures or anything fixed to walls is loose
 - Attic hatch (if present) has gaps
- During winter, removing a window air conditioning unit can help reduce drafts.



Heat Pump

The heat pumps installed in your home are a quieter and more energy-efficient alternative to furnaces and air conditioners. Heat pumps use electricity to move heat from a cool space to a warm space, making the cool space cooler and the warm space warmer. Because they move heat rather than generate heat, heat pumps can provide space conditioning at as little as one quarter of the cost of operating conventional heating or cooling appliances.

- ✓ Keep doors open between the room with the heat pump and other rooms you want to heat and cool to maximize energy savings.
- ✓ Keep the equipment in *Heating Only* or *Cooling Only* mode and avoid using the *Auto* mode. Auto mode may trigger unnecessary heating during summer or cooling in winter.
- ✓ The temperature sensor may be located higher up or lower on the wall than a typical thermostat, so set the temperature based on what feels comfortable. If you're not comfortable, adjust the temperature setting before turning on backup heat sources.
- ✓ If the heat pump unit has an indicator light to clean the filter, notify your property manager if the light comes on. Keeping the filter clean will help the unit operate efficiently.
- Ensure the outdoor units are free of debris or stored objects, such as bicycles, that obstruct airflow.

How You Can Increase Energy Savings



Smart

Thermostat

Your home has a programmable smart thermostat that allows you to control heating and air conditioning according to a pre-set schedule to make your home more comfortable.

- Program the thermostat to a comfortable temperature while you are home and active.
- While you're away or asleep, program a temperature setback: allow your home to be at a cooler temperature during winter or warmer temperature during summer. If you're only going to be out for part of the day, avoid a setback temperature greater than 5 degrees from your preferred temperature. Heating and air conditioning systems will use more energy trying to catch up from large temperature setbacks over short periods of time, and this reduces overall efficiency.



Ventilation

Ventilation helps remove moisture that can lead to mold growth and structural damage. Ventilation in an energy-efficient home ensures good indoor air quality.

- ✓ Some ventilation systems, like the ones installed in your bathroom, may have timers or sensors to allow for continuous ventilation. If you hear your bathroom ventilation fan turning on without you flicking the switch, it's turning on to help remove stale air, pollutants, and moisture that naturally build up in your home.
- ✓ Turn on the bathroom fan for 15-20 minutes after bathing to prevent potential moisture build-up and mold damage.
- Use the kitchen ventilation fan while you are cooking even if it's noisy—that's the sound of good ventilation removing the moisture from cooking before it turns into uncomfortable humidity in your home.
- ✓ Ventilation is the least expensive and most energy-efficient way to cool buildings. Most people only think to turn on ventilation when they are taking a shower or cooking, but you can take advantage of ventilation fans on hot days too, like you would a ceiling fan or floor fan. When it's warmer inside your home than it is outside, ventilation will help push some warm air out to be replaced by fresh, cooler air.

How You Can Increase Energy Savings



Heat Pump

Water

Heater

Heat pump water heaters use electricity to move heat from one place to another instead of generating heat directly. They can be two to three times more energy efficient than electric resistance water heaters. To move the heat, heat pumps work like a refrigerator in reverse.

- <IF CENTRAL HPWH> The heat pump water heater in your building serves multiple units and is not installed in your apartment. Enjoy the hot water coming to your apartment even more knowing that it took less energy to heat up compared to a standard electric water heater.
- IF IN-UNIT HPWH> Heat pump water heaters need good air circulation around the equipment, so ensure the unit is free of debris or stored objects, such as bicycles, that obstruct airflow.



Low Flow

Fixtures

The low flow faucets and showerheads installed in your home use less water, which lowers your overall water bill and water heating costs.

- ✓ When washing dishes or brushing your teeth, turn on water when you need it rather than letting it run.
- ✓ If you only need to turn on the faucet for a short period of time when using small amounts of water, place the faucet lever in the cold position instead of the hot position. Placing the lever in the hot position draws hot water from your water heater even though it may never reach the faucet to be used leading to wasted hot water usage.

How You Can Increase Energy Savings

Food Storage and Organization

- \checkmark Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder to maintain the refrigerator temperature.
- \checkmark Allow leftovers to cool on the counter before placing in the refrigerator.
- Keep items away from the condenser coils on the exterior back side of your refrigerator.
- \checkmark Arrange your items with space between each item to promote proper air flow through the refrigerator and help it operate more efficiently.

Settings

✓ Make sure your refrigerator or freezer isn't too cold. Recommended temperatures are 35°-38°F for the fresh food compartment and 0° F for separate freezers for long-term storage.

General Maintenance and Care

- Keep the rubber seal on the door clean. Contact your property manager if the seal becomes \checkmark damaged.
- Organize your refrigerator to reduce the amount of time it takes to find what you're looking for \checkmark with the door open.
- Watch for frost accumulation and remove as soon as possible with a hot cloth or rubbing alcohol. If the frost isn't easily removed, contact your property manager.



Refrigerators

Most of the energy used by a dishwasher is for water heating. Your efficient dishwasher with an ENERGY STAR label uses less water and Dishwashers energy.

Your ENERGY STAR

models.

refrigerator uses less

electricity and is at least 20%

more efficient than standard

- Scrape off large food pieces instead of rinsing. Soaking or pre-washing is generally only \checkmark recommended in cases of burned or dried-on food.
- Be sure your dishwasher is full, but not overloaded, when you run it.
- Let your dishes air dry. If you don't have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the control knob \checkmark after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.

\checkmark

How You Can Increase Energy Savings

Clothes Washer

- ✓ Wash and dry full loads. If you are washing a small load, use the appropriate water-level setting.
- ✓ If you have a front-loading washer or high-efficiency top-loader, use detergent labeled for high-efficiency (HE) machines. HE detergents are low-sudsing and quick-dispersing to clean well in high-efficiency washers that use less water.

Clothes Dryer

- Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation and prevent fire hazards.
- ✓ Air dry your laundry outside when possible to reduce energy usage and extend the life of your clothing.
- ✓ If you have a clothes dryer with a moisture sensor, it will automatically shut off when your clothes are dry, which saves energy and reduces wear and tear on your clothes caused by over-drying.



Interior

Lighting

Clothes

Washers and

Dryers

LED lights use only 20–25% of the energy and last 15 to 25 times longer than the traditional incandescent bulbs they replace.

The ENERGY STAR clothes

The ENERGY STAR clothes

dryer uses 20% less energy

than standard models.

standard washers.

washers in your home cleans

clothes using 35% less water and 20% less energy than

- ✓ Turn off lights when they are not in use.
- ✓ Dust and otherwise clean your lighting fixtures regularly. Removing dirt or dust that gets on bulbs or reflectors will provide brighter lighting and allow you to turn on fewer lights.

How You Can Increase Energy Savings



Exterior

Lighting

LED lights use only 20–25% of the energy and last 15 to 25 times longer than the traditional incandescent bulbs they replace. Controls and sensors allow exterior lights to turn on only when needed to save energy and maintain safety.

✓ Enjoy brighter, longer lasting LED lighting around the exterior of your property.



Lighting

Controls

Lighting controls in hallways and stairwells triggered by motion sensors save energy by turning on lights only when they are needed.

 Lighting will turn on automatically when you walk through hallways and stairwells and turn off when those areas are unoccupied. This reduces energy use at your property and limits unnecessary light pollution at night.