



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Smart Energy Living® Tips for Saving Money this Winter**

Top 10 energy-saving ideas and an upcoming workshop provide homeowners with practical ways to save money and improve home comfort.

LAKEWOOD, CO--- Every home is unique in how it uses and wastes energy, even when compared to similar homes in similar neighborhoods. With a little investigating, homeowners can find areas of their homes that are wasting energy. Just in time for the cold, winter weather is Smart Energy Living's Top 10 Energy Saving Tips.

1. Conduct a self-evaluation for sources of air leaks and seal them with caulking, weather stripping, or expanding foam. Common areas for air leaks include old windows and doors, attics, recessed lighting, gaps around plumbing & electrical penetrations, appliance vents, and fireplaces.
2. Upgrade insulation in attics, crawlspaces, basements, and walls.
3. Keep windows coverings open when the sun is out to help heat your home. At night and on stormy days, close window coverings to keep heat in and cold out.
4. Use a programmable thermostat, and set it back when you are sleeping or not at home. It is possible to save up to 20% on winter heating costs.
5. Changing 5 of your most frequently used lights to compact fluorescent bulbs can save up to \$60/year.
6. Replace old appliances with ENERGY STAR rated models.
7. Replace furnace filters monthly, and schedule a furnace tune-up.
8. When replacing heating equipment, do not rely on guesses, rules-of-thumb or over-the-phone bids from contractors. Contractors must visit your home before providing estimates. Heating & cooling equipment should be sized properly for your home, and the air duct system should be inspected for leaks. Look for a contractor with a NATE (North American Technician Excellence).
9. When replacing windows, make sure the window has a low-e coating. Installation is just as important as the actual window, so ask for references and choose a company that can stand behind their warranties and guarantees. Look for windows certified by NFRC (National Fenestration Rating Council).
10. If your home is a real "problem child", hire an energy rater or home performance contractor to conduct a thorough analysis and provide a cost-effective list of improvements for your home.

### **Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Workshop, Sat. Nov. 4, Colorado Springs**

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR offers a comprehensive approach to home improvement that provides comfort and both energy and cost savings for Colorado homeowners. On November 4th, workshop attendees will learn about a home that won the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Makeover, a contest sponsored by the Colorado Springs Utilities and run by the Colorado Energy Science Center.

Presentations will focus on how the home's comfort and energy problems were diagnosed and on the equipment and techniques used to solve these problems. A guided tour of the home is also included. Attendees will receive a free compact fluorescent bulb and a copy of Smart Energy Living magazine. (Supplies are limited and will be distributed to attendees on a first come first serve basis).

To register, visit [www.SmartEnergyLiving.org](http://www.SmartEnergyLiving.org) or call 303-216-2026 x150.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Smart Energy Living is the consumer education program of Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC). CESC is a non-profit founded by the managing partners of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL is the largest laboratory for efficiency and renewable energy research. Smart Energy Living provides homeowners with objective and reliable information so they can be educated energy consumers. In-depth information is available online, [www.SmartEnergyLiving.org](http://www.SmartEnergyLiving.org).

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