

8 TIPS TO SAVE MONEY AND RESOURCES THIS CHILLY HOLIDAY SEASON

1 Make a shopping list! Plan your shopping trip. Head towards where you need to go and purchase as many products as possible the first time - instead of going back and forth to the store and wasting the gas because you forgot one thing.

2 To maximize holiday energy savings, use timers to limit light displays to the hours you want. These timers are readily available and also save you the hassle of running around at dusk plugging in or turning on lights.

3 Use LED lights, which look the same as traditional incandescent bulbs, last longer, use about 85 percent less energy and stay cool to the touch, which is safer for those families with curious younger children. The lights are fairly inexpensive - a strand of 60 Philips LED dome string multi-color twinkle lights uses up to 88 percent less energy, lasts up to 20 times longer than standard bulbs and is available at most stores for around \$15.

4 Stay cozy by plugging air leaks and insulating. Sealing up air leaks with caulking and weather stripping and installing adequate insulation will increase indoor comfort and reduce home heating costs by up to 20 percent. Many metro cities are offering rebates right now for insulation upgrades and air sealing. Learn more at <http://www.colorado.gov/energy>.

5 Don't send precious, costly warmed air up the chimney! When the fireplace is not in use, try to seal the opening.

6 Make a New Year's resolution that's good for your pocketbook and the environment. Get started on those energy-efficient home improvements you've been putting off for too long! Many resources are available to help homeowners make smart, educated decisions in Smart Energy Living magazine. Sign up for a free subscription to at www.smartenergyliving.org.

7 Although frost on windows may be charming in holiday movies, it's uncomfortable in your own home. Depending on your financial capabilities, either cover single-pane windows with plastic film to avoid drafts, install storm windows, or upgrade to energy-efficient windows with double panes and low-emissivity coatings to dramatically improve indoor comfort. Even hanging heavy blankets over windows and unused outdoors will make a difference.

8 Americans generate millions of additional trash over the holidays, trash that requires additional energy to process. Try to be creative about wrapping presents-use linens or other reusable items instead. If you need wrapping paper, be sure to use recycled. Rather than using new tissue paper to wrap ornaments and things you don't want to break, reuse the bubble wrap and wrapping paper that your family's gifts arrived in.