

Tips to Save Money and Energy

October is Energy Awareness month. This is a great time to make changes in your life that reduce your energy consumption and save you money. Here is a list of some simple things you can do to make a difference.

*Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Make sure to buy an ENERGY STAR® brand!

*Use power strips in areas where you have a lot of electronics. This makes it easy to power down a room full of equipment with just one switch when not in use.

*Unplug things like phone chargers and laptop cords when not using them. They use energy even not attached to your phone or computer.

*Insulate your home and weatherize your doors and windows. Look into getting an energy audit from your local utility company. You can also do an online energy audit through the EPA just by plugging in some numbers from your utility bills:
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_index_to_ols

*Take advantage of the natural heat and lighting. Close curtains during hot days to keep the house cool and open them to warm the house in the winter.

*Consider an Energy Efficiency Mortgage to finance energy efficient changes to your home. You can learn more about these mortgages at:
http://www.fha.com/energy_efficient.cfm

*Participate in the “Cash For Appliances Rebate Program.” Watch for more information on these programs. Replacing an older appliance with an ENERGY STAR® one can reduce your energy use by 10 to 30 percent. Last year Americans saved 19 billion dollars on utilities last year through switching to ENERGY STAR® products.

Any of these tips are easy to start today, and will do a lot to reduce your energy, waste and expenses. For more green living tips contact your local County Extension Agent, Sandy Foster, 770-473-3945, or sandyf@uga.edu.