

Save on Your Winter Electric Bill

Did you know that heating in the winter and cooling in the summer accounts for almost 50% of a typical American home's energy use? DP&L can help you stay warm for less, now that the weather is turning colder.



If you are doing some last-minute prep work to make sure your home is ready for cold weather, DP&L wants to help you Be a Savings Champion this winter. Here are some DIY projects to score big savings on your winter energy bills.

1 – SEAL AIR LEAKS

One simple project that can save you a lot of money is sealing air leaks around your house. From windows, baseboards, door bottoms and outlets, take full advantage of the possible savings by inspecting and sealing these common spots for air leakage. Find a helpful video at (www.savewithdpl.com/4-diy-projects-to-save-this-winter) highlighting the importance of sealing air leaks:

Some common tips for fixing air leaks include:

- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards and other places where air may leak.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows to prevent warm air from escaping.

Visit energy.gov to find more tips on how to fix air leaks and save money.

2 – INSULATE LIGHT SWITCHES AND OUTLETS ON EXTERIOR WALLS

While the plastic covers over light switches and outlets may look nice in your living room, they may be hurting your savings potential if they aren't insulated properly. For a quick fix to seal those outlets and switches, install a foam outlet gasket to reduce the amount of air leaked into the room from the outside.



3 – ATTIC INSULATION

Your attic can be an energy savings all-star this winter. Did you know that 90% of American homes are under-insulated?¹ ENERGY STAR® has lots of information to help you “rule your attic” this winter, including how-to videos to step you through the process. Learn more about sealing attic air leaks and checking your insulation levels by visiting www.energystar.gov and clicking on Energy Savings at Home.

4 – INSTALL EXTERIOR STORM WINDOWS

Installing storm windows will boost your energy savings this winter. For even greater savings, go the extra mile with low-emissivity (low-e) storm windows. These low-e storm windows, which reflect infrared heat back into the home, are easy to install and cost effective. You could score savings up to \$330 annually! Find out how to install storm windows and which type is right for your home. Visit www.energy.gov and click on Services and Do it Yourself Projects.

These are just a few of the many ways you can defeat costly energy bills and score big savings. To score more energy saving tips check out the DP&L Power Play Blog at www.savewithdpl.com/news.

Here are some more tips to save energy this winter

- Move your furniture away from registers. Objects in front of registers block the flow of warm air into your rooms.

- Make the sun do some work. On sunny days, open the drapes to warm up your rooms. Shut the drapes or blinds at night to keep the warmth inside.
- Check your furnace filter monthly. A dirty filter forces your furnace to work harder to circulate warm air.
- Have a professional check your furnace or heating system once a year. It's a good idea to ensure it's working as efficiently as possible and that you don't have any carbon monoxide leaks.

Some Heating Changes Will Cost Now But Save Later

If you replace your heating system, you could save about \$150 a year in energy costs by purchasing a high efficiency system. DP&L offers heating rebates (www.dpandl.com/save) that could save you \$100 to \$1,600 on the purchase and save you even more on your energy costs.



For more information about saving on energy costs, visit www.dpandl.com.

More Simple Winter Saving Tips

Set your thermostat lower when you sleep or are away during the day. Use heavier blankets on your bed if needed. Many experts suggest setting your thermostat at 65-68 degrees during winter months. Each degree above 68°F can add 3% to the amount of energy needed for heating.

Install a programmable thermostat. Automatically reducing the temperature during the day if no one is home or at night will save you the headache of remembering to re-set your thermostat and could save up to 10 percent on your heating bills.

Close your damper to your fireplace when not in use. Consider installing glass doors over the fireplace opening to keep warm air from escaping up the chimney.