

1973

EC73-2031 Energy Conservation in the Home : Outside the House

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Energy Conservation in the Home-



Extension Service

University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture Cooperating with the
U. S. Department of Agriculture and the College of Home Economics
E. F. Frolik, Dean J. L. Adams, Director

Outside the House

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"Consume-Conserve" Thinking

How many cars does your family operate? How are they used? Eighty seven percent of an automobile's energy intake is wasted via the exhaust pipe and radiation. Could you:

- Walk, bicycle, or form a car pool for shopping trips as well as school—lesson—club jaunts?

- Avoid quick starts and stops?

- Use mass transportation more often?

- Lower your speed?

- Turn the engine off while parked?

- Match horsepower ratings to your needs.

Don't buy a high horsepower car if you don't need it. Buy vehicles which get more mileage to the gallon.

When buying a car, avoid the power options that gulp gas, such as air-conditioning, automatic transmission, etc.

Keep your car well waxed. It will require fewer washings and hardly any soap or detergent. Generally, a few buckets of water and a chamois will do the job. This will protect the environment as well as cut energy use especially if "commercial car wash" is used.

Regular tune-ups for your car and good driving practices will help you gain top efficiency and make your gasoline go farther, which saves you money in the long run. What you spend for a tune-up, you get back in better gas mileage.

Lawn and Garden

Many people find great satisfaction in a beautiful lawn and garden. They gain aesthetic pleasure, physical exercise, gratifying use of leisure time, etc. Think for a moment, however, of ways this activity might consume less power, and still have the forementioned returns.

- Use muscle power instead of mechanical power whenever possible.

- Use a hand mower if your lawn is small, or for sections of the yard.

- Keep all power tools in top operating condition. Follow the manufacturer's directions for use and care. Repair immediately at the first hint of a malfunction. These measures will minimize noise and exhaust fumes also.

- Don't use electric lawn and garden tools during those hours when the electrical load is at its peak, usually 5 to 7 p.m. Do that yard work after dinner—that's better for the waistline anyway.

- Mow less often. The grass will then require less water also.

Outdoor Cooking

Do you enjoy barbecuing in your yard? Picnics?

- Be sure to turn off gas pilot lights on the barbecue grills between uses.

- Turn off non-essential power usage such as gas or electric yard lights.

- Use reusable metal or plastic plates, cups, flatware, instead of paper. Saves power in manufacturing process and also results in less waste of natural resources (especially lumber), less pollution (from throwaways), and less expenditure for consumers.

- Encourage children not to run in and out of the house. Frequent opening and closing of doors wastes cool air in the summer, heat in the winter. Think of the money savings too—it is estimated that fuel bills can be 3% higher for every child in the family.

Leisure Time

How do you spend your leisure time? Burning fuel? Evaluate those activities which use energy. Are they worth the cost? Not necessarily just in dollars—consider the cost in depletion of supplies for the future. Some things you might do:

- Reduce use of recreational vehicles. Eliminate the “Sunday auto ride”—instead, take a walk, write a letter, pull some weeds, read a book, chat with a friend.

- What sacrifices would have to be made if that second car were sold?

- Is the air-conditioner going full blast when no one is home? When you are home, does it have to be that cool? Same goes for heat supply in the winter.

- Install low-wattage bulbs in lamps not used for reading.

- Turn off lights not being used to conserve power.

- Never let a faucet drip! One drop a second can waste 700 gallons of water a year—and if it's hot water, you are wasting fuel as well as money.

Make a Commitment

Make a commitment to being a part of the solution, not the problem, to the energy crisis. Develop a consumer conscience. Be vocal, make others aware of ways they can help.

- Become informed and inform others about the energy crisis.

- Ask businesses to reduce their fuel use by reducing night lighting and advertising lighting.

- Ask department stores to turn off elevators and escalators during particularly heavy power use times (leaving one available for the physically limited). Use escalators on alternate floors only.

- Consider the packaging when buying. Excess packaging demands greater use of energy in the manufacturing process. Encourage manufacturers to eliminate excess packaging.

- Urge city officials to plan new developments with access to public transportation.

- Support legislation relating to Truth-in-Energy.

- Encourage manufacturers to add labels to cars showing the mileage per gallon and relationship of power options to gas consumption.

- Discourage amateur and professional racing of cars and motorcycles.

- When buying, ask: do I really need this? Will it really make life easier, more pleasant? Is it necessary?

- Working in a group, your actions will have wider impact. Form a consumer organization which would serve as a clearing-house for information concerning the energy crisis, legislation, etc.

Interested in other ways to conserve use of energy while consuming? Contact your County Extension Office for:

EC 73-2025 Energy Conservation in the Home--There Is an Energy Crisis!

EC 73-2026 Energy Conservation in the Home--Kitchen

EC 73-2027 Energy Conservation in the Home--Inside the House

EC 73-2028 Energy Conservation in the Home--Building and Remodeling

EC 73-2029 Energy Conservation in the Home--Cooling

EC 73-2030 Energy Conservation in the Home--Heating

EC 73-2031 Energy Conservation in the Home--Outside the House