



## Tax-Smart Investments

If you've been considering improvements to your home that increase its energy efficiency, now is the ideal tax time to move ahead with your plans.

The recently signed American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009 extends consumer tax incentives introduced in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Tax credits are now available for a wider range of ENERGY STAR®-qualified products, including windows, doors, skylights, roofing materials, central air conditioning and more purchased in 2009 and 2010.

For more information, visit the Department of Energy Web site at [www.energy.gov/yourhome.htm](http://www.energy.gov/yourhome.htm).

Certain energy efficiency upgrades may also be eligible for rebates or incentives from Focus on Energy. To find out if your home improvements qualify, visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).

This summer,  
let's work together.





## At Wisconsin Public Service, saving energy is a team effort.

With summer on its way, managing warm-weather energy expenses, such as air conditioning, will soon be upon us — probably the last thing you want to think about after a long, cold winter.

The good news is that there are easy, everyday things all of us can do year 'round to keep those energy costs in line without sacrificing comfort. And at WPS, we believe those answers are found by working together.

Right now, we're working to keep costs down while investing in the technologies that deliver reliable, affordable, increasingly green energy. Helping the effort are people like you, families who've turned to the tips, calculators and other tools at [wisconsinpublicservice.com](http://wisconsinpublicservice.com) to start saving energy and controlling costs.

Together, we're making a difference. Sure, conserving energy takes a little extra effort from all of us. But when you see the results for yourself, your community and the environment, you'll agree it's worth the energy.

## 10 Summer Energy Savers

Here are just a few easy ways to save on energy all summer long. Find many more energy-saving tips, calculators, tools and ideas at [wisconsinpublicservice.com](http://wisconsinpublicservice.com).

### Air conditioning

- **Raise the air conditioning thermostat.** Just 6° F higher can shave 10% off your cooling bill.
- **Use fans instead.** Cooling breezes from a ceiling fan or portable fan can make up that 6°, keeping you just as comfortable for less energy.
- **Block the sun.** Close drapes and shades on windows during the day to keep heat from the sun out of your house and open them to let heat escape in the evenings.

### Refrigerator

- **Keep it cool.** Make sure direct sunlight isn't hitting your refrigerator and keep it away from the oven, stove, water heater, etc.
- **Turn off moisture control.** Turning off your refrigerator's "anti-sweat" heater cuts its energy costs by about 10%.
- **Clean cooling coils.** Vacuuming your refrigerator coils once a year removes energy-robbing dirt and dust.

### Cooking

- **Cook more outdoors.** Use your grill to cook more summer favorites and keep the heat outdoors.
- **Use toaster oven or microwave.** Full size electric stoves make your house hotter and cost two to five times more than cooking with a microwave or toaster oven.

### Water heating

- **Turn down your water heater.** With most water heaters designed to perform well at 120° F, every 10° you lower the setting toward that temperature, you save about 13% in heating costs.
- **Insulate.** Wrapping your water heater with an insulating blanket saves about \$20 annually in natural gas or \$50 if your water heater uses electricity.