



## North Carolina Department of Administration

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Britt Cobb, Secretary

Larry E. Shirley, Director  
State Energy Office

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Contact: Sunny Nelson  
Phone: 919-733-1922

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### **EARTH DAY ENERGY-SAVING TIPS**

*State Energy Office Provides No- and Low-Cost Tips to Become More Energy Efficient*

**RALEIGH** – Earth Day 2007 is Sunday, April 22, and the State Energy Office of the N.C. Department of Administration reminds North Carolinians that using energy resources more efficiently can help preserve the environment and save on energy costs.

“Being more energy efficient does not mean sacrificing comfort or convenience,” said Larry Shirley, director of the State Energy Office. “There are many simple things a consumer can do for little or no money that will make a big impact on energy bills, sometimes even cutting those bills by nearly half.”

The State Energy Office offers these no-cost tips for reducing energy use this summer:

- Use full washer loads when washing clothes or dishes, and use the air-drying cycle instead of the heat-drying cycle. When possible, avoid drying clothes during the hottest hours of the afternoon.
- Secure windows tightly to prevent air conditioning loss, and use shades and blinds to keep the sun out, especially on south-facing windows.
- Use ceiling fans when a room is occupied.
- Do not set your air conditioner thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on the unit. It will not cool your home any faster and, if you forget to change the setting, can result in excessive cooling and unnecessary energy consumption.
- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees). Place your gas water heater on “vacation” mode or turn off your electric water heater when you leave town for extended periods of time.
- Stop aggressive driving. You can improve your gas mileage by up to five percent around town if you avoid “jackrabbit” starts and stops by anticipating traffic conditions and driving gently.

The following low-cost measures can also help save money:

- Consider installing a programmable thermostat. Set the thermostat to 76 degrees when your home is occupied and 85 degrees when it is unoccupied.

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**Mailing Address:**  
1340 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1340

**Telephone (919) 733-2230**  
Fax (919) 733-2953  
[www.energync.net](http://www.energync.net)

**Location:**  
1830A Tillery Place  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

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- Install or replace worn weather stripping on exterior doors, windows and attic entry doors. Install foam outlet gaskets on exterior walls.
- When replacing incandescent lights, choose compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). They use 75 percent less energy, last 10 to 13 times longer and do not add to your home's cooling load as incandescent lights do.
- When replacing appliances, consider ENERGY STAR products, which use 10 to 50 percent less energy and water than standard models.

Additional energy-saving tips can be found on the State Energy Office website at [www.energync.net/efficiency](http://www.energync.net/efficiency).

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