Easy Steps to a Bright Summer at Home

Energy is in the news once again. There is not enough of it, and it costs too much!

Part of the “Watt’s Going On, California? Energy Conservation Program sponsored by:
The League of California Cities
California State Association of Counties
Local Government Commission
California Park & Recreation Society
Energy-Saving Tips

• **Set your thermostat to 78°F or higher during the summer.**
  Savings: 10 – 20% of cooling costs.

• **Set your thermostat at 85°F or higher when you leave your home for more than four hours.**
  Savings: 5 – 12% of cooling costs. Close interior drapes and shades during the day.

• **Stop the sun before it hits you!** Use exterior shading devices like awnings, bamboo screens and shade screens (instead of bug screens), or deciduous plants to shade your home and windows (especially south, west and east facing) from the sun. Small shrubs can block heat reflected from patios and pavement. And planting vines over southern windows can reduce the effect of the sun’s heat.
  Savings: up to 8% of cooling costs.

• **Cool naturally!** Take advantage of breezy days and nights by opening doors and windows and turning off your cooling system. (But don’t forget security measures; stay safe!)

• **Turn off** lights when you leave a room. Turn off your TV, computer and other electronic devices when they’re not in use.

• **Prepare cool meals** such as salads and sandwiches. Barbecue outdoors, instead of using the oven or range.

• **Plan ahead so that clothes and dishes are washed in the late evening.** Avoid using large quantities of water during peak times, when it costs your local water utility more to run the water pumps.

• **Switch pool filters, sweeper operations and spa filters to off-peak hours.** Replace old equipment with more efficient equipment.

For a more complete list, check out the websites below or call the California Energy Commission, (916) 654-4989, or the State Department of General Services, (916) 445-3441.

- [www.flexyourpower.ca.gov](http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov) California Department of General Services, energy information
- [www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com) California Independent System Operator
- [www.ladwp.com](http://www.ladwp.com) Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com) Pacific Gas and Electric
- [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org) Sacramento Municipal Utilities District
- [www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com) San Diego Gas and Electric
- [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com) Southern California Edison
- [www.consumerenergycenter.org](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org) Consumer Energy Center, California Energy Commission
- [www.energy.ca.gov/education](http://www.energy.ca.gov/education) Energy Quest, California Energy Commission