**Reduce energy costs while protecting God’s creation**

Just when you get over the shock of home heating bills, along comes summer and the unwelcome jump in electric bills from running air conditioners. Below are some tips from [SCARCE](scarceecoed.org) that can help you reduce your energy costs all year long while helping to protect the Earth:

1. If you have a Smart Meter contact SCARCE to learn how to use it. In the next few years, CommEd plans to install Smart Meters in all homes in Downers Grove and surrounding communities.
2. Schedule a home energy audit – Contact SCARCE for more information
3. Unplug appliances when not in use - toasters, Keurigs, coffee pots, printers, - learn about vampire energy draw.
4. Block the sun from overheating your home in the summer – close your shades.
5. Let the sun shine in to heat up your home in the winter – open your shades.
6. Use ceiling fans to cool the room in the summer.
7. Reverse the direction of your ceiling fan to warm your home in the winter.
8. Don’t block your vents when heating or cooling your home.
9. Use a programmable thermostat to lower the temperature of your home while you are gone.
10. Replace your standard bulbs with LED bulbs.
11. Dust the coils in the rear of your fridge – it will run more efficiently and keep costs down.
12. Keep your freezer full.
13. Wash and dry several loads in a row so that your dryer doesn’t completely cool down between loads.
14. Always wash with cold water – you will save $0.40 per load.
15. Change the filter on your air conditioner at least once a month
16. Close the flue in your fireplace.
17. Dry your clothes on a clothes line when you can.
18. Turn the temperature down on your water heater.
19. Unplug battery chargers (cell phones, tablets, etc.) when the device is fully charged.
20. Wrap your old water heater in insulation to help it work more efficiently.
21. When replacing appliances – look for the Energy Star label.
22. When purchasing a new furnace, look for high Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) ratings. The national minimum is 78% AFUE, but there are ENERGY STAR® models on the market that exceed 90% AFUE.
23. When looking for a new air conditioner, look for a high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). The current minimum is 13 SEER for central air conditioners. ENERGY STAR models are 14.5 SEER or more.
24. When looking to purchase a new water heater consider a tankless model.

***Tips provided by:*** SCARCE, 799 Roosevelt Rd #108, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137; (630) 545-9710