

### Energy saving

**Q: How can I save energy, money, and help prevent climate change?**

**A: Here are some simple measures you can do right now (reproduced courtesy of the Energy Saving Trust).**

- Turn your thermostat down. Reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10 percent and typically saves around £55 per year. If you have a programmer, set your heating and hot water to come on only when required rather than all the time.
- Is your water too hot? Your cylinder thermostat should be set at 60°C/140°F.
- Close your curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping through the windows and check for draughts around windows and doors.
- Always turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Don't leave appliances on standby and remember not to leave laptops and mobile phones on charge unnecessarily.
- If possible, fill up the washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher: one full load uses less energy than two half loads.
- Only boil as much water as you need (but remember to cover the elements if you're using an electric kettle).
- A dripping hot water tap wastes energy and in one week wastes enough hot water to fill half a bath, so fix leaking taps and make sure they're fully turned off!
- Use energy saving light bulbs. They last up to 10 times longer than ordinary bulbs, and using one can save you around £40 over the lifetime of the bulb. This saving could be around £65 over its lifetime if you're replacing a high wattage incandescent bulb, or one used for more than a few hours a day.

- Just answer some simple questions about your home and we'll give you a free, impartial report telling you how you can save up to £300 a year on your household energy bills.

For other help and advice (including regular tips) see 10:10 which is an ambitious project to unite every sector of British society behind one simple idea: that by working together we can achieve a 10% cut in the UK's carbon emissions in 2010.

### **Q: Are there ways of controlling my heating system that will save money?**

- When you first move in we should ensure your gas boiler is set up & you should also be shown how to operate your system correctly & efficiently.
- Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning and protect yourself against it. Do not block up ventilation, get appliances checked regularly and get a carbon monoxide detector. Visit **[www.1010uk.org/#what\\_is\\_1010](http://www.1010uk.org/#what_is_1010)**
- Find out whether you can save money by switching to another company. **[www.switchwithwhich.co.uk](http://www.switchwithwhich.co.uk)** is an impartial service recommended by the Energy Savings Trust. You can call them on Freephone **0800 404 7908**.

### **Q: What are Energy Performance certificates?**

**A:** All landlords are required to obtain an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) prior to the start of each tenancy and will need to give a copy to the tenant. The EPC gives a guide to the energy efficiency of your home (rated A to G). For more information contact us on **0800 111 42 42** or go to **[epc.direct.gov.uk/index.html](http://epc.direct.gov.uk/index.html)**

For free, independent and local energy saving advice call the Energy Saving Trust on **0800 512 012**. Or visit **[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Easy-ways-to-stop-wasting-energy/Stop-wasting-energy-and-cut-your-bills/Tips-to-help-you-stop-wasting-energy](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Easy-ways-to-stop-wasting-energy/Stop-wasting-energy-and-cut-your-bills/Tips-to-help-you-stop-wasting-energy)**