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Quick and Easy Tips for Summer Energy Savings

Save on energy during the summer. Did you know that running your A/C accounts for about 48% of your energy use? What about the fact that standby power accounts for over \$10 billion in wasted energy every year? There are countless actions you can take to reduce consumption and save money that require very little effort! With summer in full swing, now is a great time to check out a few easy tips that will help make your wallet and the environment happier.

Use your A/C wisely. It's staggering the amount of money and electricity that could be saved by taking just a few minutes of your time. Making sure vents are clean, that registers aren't blocked, and that interior doors are opened to allow for better airflow can all provide significant savings. Also, don't forget to switch your ceiling fans to spin counter-clockwise to provide better circulation. And if you really want to save, up your thermostat by a single degree or two; each degree accounts for about a 3% overall savings on your electricity bill.

Avoid vampires (not that kind). Standby power, much like vampires, can be a real drain. It's estimated that the average home spends over \$150 a year on energy going to computers, televisions, cable boxes and other electronics that aren't in use and are idling in standby mode. Unplug devices you're not actively using, or invest in Smart Powerstrips that will automatically restrict power to inactive electronics.

Sidestep the electricity peak. The time of use can significantly impact your energy bill. Power companies differentiate between high and low volume usage times for energy consumption, and they charge different rates. In fact, most energy companies charge twice the rate per kilowatt hour! The most typical "peak" times for energy usage are from 6:00AM-10:00AM and from 4:00PM to 8:00PM. Try to do laundry, run the dishwasher, shower, vacuum and perform other energy-reliant activities during the off-peak times if possible.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy / US News and World Report

Read the full article by visiting: 2-10.com/blog

Luscious Lemonade Recipe:

Ingredients

- 1 cup sugar
- 5 cups water, divided
- 6 to 8 lemons (about 1 cup of lemon juice)
- Ice

Instructions

1. **Make the simple syrup.** Combine the sugar and 1 cup of the water in a small saucepan and bring to a gentle simmer over low heat to dissolve sugar. Once the sugar is completely dissolved, remove from heat to cool.
2. **Squeeze the lemons.** Roll each lemon over your cutting board, pressing down as you do. This will help them to release their juice. Cut in half and squeeze. Repeat until you have one cup. You may not need all the lemons but try to save at least one half if you want to garnish your glasses.
3. **Combine.** Add the cooled syrup to your pitcher, followed by the lemon juice and the remaining 4 cups of water. Stir. Taste and adjust: add a few tablespoons of sugar if it needs to be sweeter or the juice of 1/2 lemon if it needs more tartness.
4. **Add ice.** Add ice to pitcher if you think you will drink the whole pitcher right away. Otherwise add ice to each glass.
5. **Garnish.** It's optional, but garnishes are fun. Try a slice of fruit, a sprig of mint or a flower such as lavender or nasturtium.

Recipe courtesy of thekitchn.com



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