

LESS CARBON FROM ELECTRICITY

USE LESS ELECTRICITY

- a. Turn off lights when not in room
- b. Turn off TV and computer when not using. Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use.
- c. Unplug chargers when not using. the transformer in the AC adapter draws power continuously, even when the device is not plugged into the adapter
- d. PEPCO has many programs which save electricity, and which will save money! See [PEPCO residential energy saving programs http://www.pepco.com/my-home/save-money-and-conserve-energy/efficiency-rebates-and-incentives-and-programs/](http://www.pepco.com/my-home/save-money-and-conserve-energy/efficiency-rebates-and-incentives-and-programs/)
 1. PEPCO Home Energy Reports - Receive reports showing average and comparative energy use and tips.
 2. PEPCO Peak Energy Savings Credit - Receive credits off your bill by reducing your energy usage during designated hours on Peak Savings Days.
 3. PEPCO Energy Wise Rewards - Receive up to \$160 off your bill in the first year and get a web-programmable thermostat or outdoor switch installed at no charge.
 4. PEPCO My Account - Use My Account to see how and when you're using energy, get personalized tips for energy savings and calculate how much you can save by making specific improvements around your home.

BUY CLEAN ELECTRICITY

45% of regular electricity in Maryland comes from coal burning power plants. Explore ways to buy clean electricity.

Buy electricity from windpower. PEPCO distributes electricity from many providers using its wires. You have a choice, and can buy electricity from windpower from several good companies. See Ethical Electric; Viridian power with purpose; Inspire Energy; Oasis Energy (sells dirty energy also) and Washington Gas Energy Services (has wind power options). They all have web sites for getting their respective rates, contracts etc. It should be pointed out that wind power rates will be higher than dirty energy rates but buying wind power promotes this development of this industry.

USE SOLAR POWER

1. Installing solar-powered outdoor pathway lights is one of the easiest ways to use

solar energy at home

2. Put Solar panels on your roof.

a. Solar City has a 20-year lease program with no upfront costs. See solarcity.com.

b. Buy your own solar panels. There are a number of solar panel companies so it is best to get 3 estimates since owning your system is a significant investment. Maryland Solar Solutions appears to have high customer satisfaction.

EFFICIENT LIGHT BULBS

- a. Halogen incandescent light bulbs are simply energy-efficient incandescent bulbs that can last up to three times longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs.
- b. Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL Bulbs)-ENERGY STAR®-qualified CFLs use about 75% less energy and last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescents.
- c. Light Emitting Diodes or LEDs offer similar light quality to traditional incandescents, last 25 times as long, and use even less energy than CFLs. Choose ENERGY STAR-qualified LEDs for the highest quality and energy savings.

EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

Electronics

ENERGY STAR-labeled computers use 30%-65% less energy than computers without this designation, depending on usage. Spending a large portion of time in low-power mode not only saves energy but helps equipment run cooler and last longer. Using the power management settings on computers and monitors can cause significant savings. Use automatic switching to sleep mode or simply turn it off.

Appliances

- a. Washers and Dryers: ENERGY STAR clothes washers clean clothes using 35% less water and 20% less energy than standard washers. When shopping for a new clothes dryer, look for one with a moisture sensor that automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry.
- b. Refrigerators and Freezers. Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 35°-38°F for refrigerators and 0°F for separate freezers for long-term storage. Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a piece of paper or a dollar bill so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. If you can pull the paper or bill out easily, the latch may need adjustment, the seal may need replacing, or you may consider buying a new unit.

- c. Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.