



Are Your Energy Bills Too High?

50% of Canadian households have made at least one home improvement intended to reduce energy consumption.¹ If you're looking for ways to reduce your monthly costs, investing in upgrades that make your home more efficient should do the trick. It will also impress cost-conscious homebuyers and potentially enhance your home's market value if you decide to sell.

Top 6 Energy-Saving Home Improvements

\$\$\$\$	Big ticket
\$	Less pricey

1 Windows/Doors

\$\$\$\$ Replace single-pane windows with insulated, double or triple-glazed models that have high-performance glass. New fenestration products such as windows, doors and skylights can make your home more comfortable, reduce noise from outside and cut your heating and cooling costs by **7-12%**.²

\$ Install interior storm windows to reduce heat loss; plastic sheeting sealed tightly to a frame is the most affordable option.

2 Water Heating

\$\$\$\$ Replacing older units with Energy Star models saves an average of **\$76 per year**; tankless water heaters cost more but deliver up to **30%** more savings than standard natural gas units.^{3,4}

\$ It's easy and effective to add an insulation blanket to most standard water heaters.

3 Heating/Cooling (HVAC)

\$\$\$\$ New Energy Star furnaces and AC units are much more efficient than older units; it may be worth replacing one that is more than 15 years old.

\$ Replacing and/or cleaning air filters regularly could lower your bills by **5%** or more.² Install a programmable thermostat to automatically lower the temperature 10° to 15° for 8 hours per day, and you'll save as much as **10%** per year.²

4 Insulation

\$\$\$\$ Installing insulation within the walls is an elaborate project that may require the services of a contractor.

\$ Adding insulation to the attic is fairly easy and inexpensive; eliminating drafts can be as simple as sealing holes or cracks with caulk or applying weather stripping around exterior doors.

5 Appliances

\$\$\$\$ Replacing washers, refrigerators and dishwashers is quick and easy but can be costly; you can save an average of **\$34 a year** in energy costs for each new Energy Star model you purchase.³

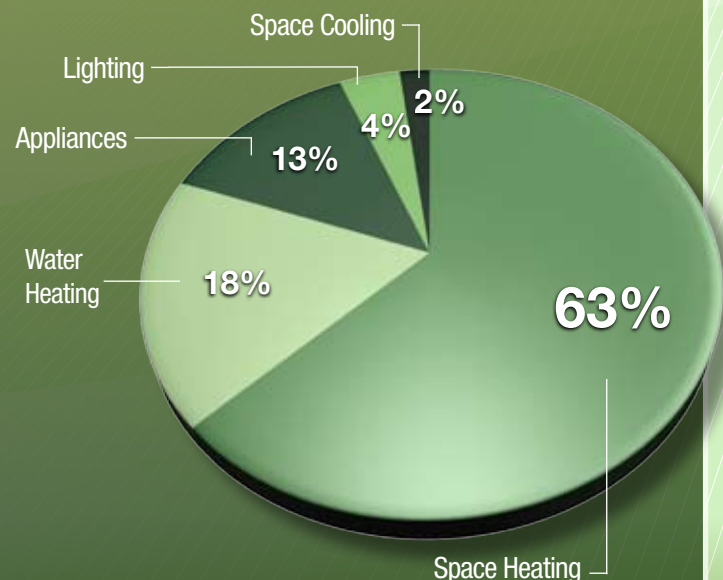
6 Lighting

\$ When replacing old lights, use Energy Star qualified fixtures. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) last longer than standard lights and each one will save you **\$30 over its lifetime**—LED products last longer and use even less energy.^{2,4}

Sources: 1) Statistics Canada, *Households and the Environment: Energy Use*
2) Natural Resources Canada
3) Kiplinger Personal Finance Magazine, September 30, 2010
4) U.S. Department of Energy

Breaking Down Your Bill

The energy demands of a typical Canadian house:



Source: Natural Resources Canada



Is Your Home an Energy Hog?

All homes were not created equal when it comes to energy use. Newer dwellings are typically built with conservation in mind, whereas older houses often have a few shortcomings to address.

How do you know if your home is wasting valuable resources on a regular basis?

A **home energy audit** detects specific deficiencies and suggests improvement projects that will have the biggest impact. Correcting any issues that are found should work to reduce your home's overall energy consumption and trim your monthly household budget.

You can **conduct an inspection** yourself, contact your local utility company or hire an independent energy auditor for a thorough review. A professional may use sophisticated equipment such as blower doors, infrared cameras and surface thermometers to isolate air leaks and drafts.

Give it a checkup:

Assess insulation levels in the attic, walls, ceilings, floors and any crawl spaces. Reducing the flow of warm and cold air between the inside and the outdoors will also make the interior more comfortable year round.

Look for cracks or openings around walls, ceilings, chimneys, windows, doors, plumbing fixtures, electrical switches and outlets or any other place that air can leak into or out of your home. Pay special attention to the fireplace flue and areas with noticeable drafts.

Make sure appliances and heating/cooling systems work well and are maintained according to the manufacturers' recommendations.

36% of Canadians now have a programmable thermostat.

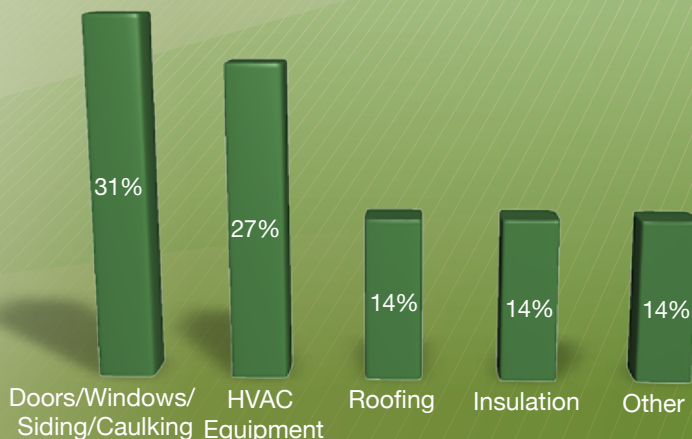
33% have switched out 5 or more standard lights with energy-saving CFLs.

9 out of **10** homebuyers say they are likely to look for an energy-efficient home in the future.

Source: Ottawa East EMC News

How Homes Changed for the Better

According to the most recent government surveys, Canadians who made at least one retrofit for the sake of energy efficiency chose the following:



Source: Statistics Canada, Households and the Environment: Energy Use

