



TOP TEN ACTIONS

For more information, please visit our website at www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org
You can also call us at (410) 927-6088 or e-mail us at info@baltimoreenergychallenge.org

1



Switch to Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)

CFLs use so much less electricity they pay for themselves in under 6 months. Get free ones from the BGE Quick Home Energy Check-Up or buy them yourself! Always remember to turn lights off when you leave a room!

2



Turn Down Thermostat and/or Install a Programmable Thermostat

Every degree you turn down your thermostat, saves you money. 3 degrees could save you more than \$20 per month. Unlike a person, a programmable thermostat won't forget to turn down the heat or AC while you're gone or sleeping. You could save \$200 a year by using one!

3



Wrap and Turn Temperature Down on Hot Water Heater

Buy an insulating jacket for your hot water heater, and turn the temperature down to 120 degrees. If yours is electric, the Quick Check-Up will wrap it for free!

4



Get Low-Flow Showerheads

Low-flow showerheads have all the comfort of normal showerheads, but use less than half the hot water, saving you money every day. Free with the Check-Up!

5



Turn Stuff Off and Use Powerstrips to Do It!

Many devices in your home draw power when you're not using them and even when they're off, like TVs and cell phone chargers. Turn everything off, and hit the powerstrip to do it!

6



Wash Laundry Using Cold Water and Line Dry Your Clothes

Using cold water to wash your laundry can save up to 90% of your energy costs per load. That is \$200 a year in savings! Clothes dryers are one of the largest users of household energy, up to 12% of your monthly energy bill. Consider using a space saving retractable clothesline!

7



Increase Refrigerator Efficiency

Cleaning your refrigerator coils every 6 months will improve efficiency and reduce energy usage. Or, consider replacing an older refrigerator with an Energy Star model which could save you \$500-\$1000 over 5 years!

8



Maintain Your Heating System

Space heating accounts for a whopping 31% of your yearly bill. Having your system regularly serviced, replacing furnace filters, utilizing reflective radiator panels and keeping vents, radiators and baseboard units unobstructed are all ways that you can save on your heating costs.

9



Insulate and Air Seal Your Home

Most Baltimore homes leak air and heat. You can do basic weatherization yourself with tools from a hardware store, or a professional can do an even better job!

10



Educate Your Family Members and Neighbors

It's no use turning the thermostat down if someone else immediately turns it up. Teach your family how to save money and energy! Next, teach your neighbors!