

# It's a new year for energy efficiency

Many people turn over a new leaf at the beginning of a new year by making a resolution. This year why not make a resolution to stop wasting money?

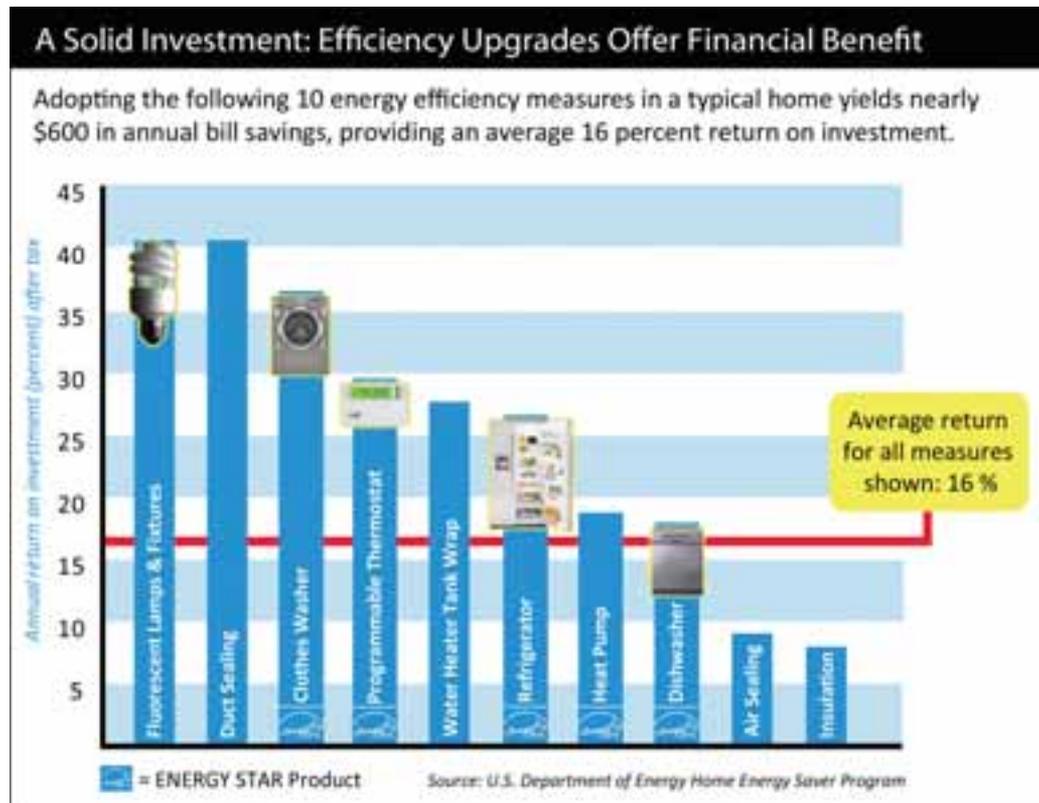
Some efficiency improvements are easy to accomplish, while others are more complex. Tackling it all at once can be overwhelming, but spaced out over a year, they are more manageable.

## Efficiency actions that can be taken in the next few weeks:

- Buy and install low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.
- Put a water heater blanket on your older water heater to help water in the tank stay hot.
- Apply rope caulk to leaky window frames.
- Assess your heating and cooling systems, and determine if replacements are justified or whether you should retrofit them to make them work more efficiently and provide the same or better comfort for less energy.

## Efficiency actions that can be taken in the next few months:

- Separate your electricity and heating oil/natural gas bills. Target the biggest bill for energy conservation remedies.
- Find out what level of insulation is recommended for your area at [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov). Then inspect the insulation in your attic or crawlspace to determine if there is enough. If not, add the appropriate amount.
- Insulate hot water pipes and ducts wherever they run through unheated areas.



- Seal up the largest air leaks in your house. The worst culprits are usually not windows and doors, but plumbing penetrations, gaps around chimneys, and recessed lights in insulated ceilings and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Have an energy auditor with a blower door determine where the worst cracks are.
- Set your thermostat lower in the winter when you can accept cooler conditions. This generally includes nighttime and whenever you leave your home for several hours. Many people find it easier to use an Energy Star programmable thermostat that you can set to automatically adjust.
- Make sure your major appliances like washers and refrigerators are energy efficient. If they're not, consider setting up a replacement schedule.

**For more information on home efficiency, go to [EfficiencyResource.org](http://EfficiencyResource.org).**



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