



Tips to Reduce Winter Heating Costs and Save You Money

According to the Arkansas Public Services Commission (PSC), residential Arkansans should begin preparing for an increase in their winter heating costs.¹ To help offset the anticipated increase, Progress Arkansas has compiled the following list of low-cost, easy steps that you can take to increase the energy efficiency of your home and save money.

- Lower your thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home and 65 degrees when you are not. By lowering your thermostat 10-15 percent for eight hours a day, you can save up to 10 percent a year on your heating costs
- Set the water heater temperature to 120 degrees and insulate water heater pipes
- Close vents and doors of unused rooms; close fireplace dampers when not in use
- Seal and weather-strip doors and windows to ensure your home retains as much warm air as possible and blocks as much cold air as possible from entering.
- Use the air dry setting on your dishwasher
- Make sure floor vents aren't blocked by furniture or other obstructions
- Open south facing drapes and shades during the day to allow sunlight to enter; close them at night to reduce chill
- Insulate attic floors and basement ceilings
- Replace old appliances with new ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR label
- Install a programmable thermostat that will raise and lower temperatures at set times
- Perform a complete energy audit to identify portions of your home where air is unintentionally entering or exiting. Once identified, take the necessary steps to seal these areas

¹ Arkansas Public Services Commission Advises Customers Regarding Winter Gas Bills. September 17, 2008.