

# Greening the Holidays: Energy

- **Reduce Holiday Light Consumption**
  - Use LED holiday lights, save up to 90% of your electric cost, and save money.
  - Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights and use up to 75% less energy.
  - Compact fluorescent bulbs make great stocking stuffers and holiday party favors.
  - Turn off lights when you leave a room.
  - Place lights on timers.
- **Turn off Appliances and Electronics when not in use**
  - Appliances account for 20% of household energy consumption.
    - Purchase Energy Star labeled appliances.
    - Unplug appliances such as microwave ovens when not in use to reduce energy consumption.
  - Electronics
    - 40% of power is consumed when electronics are “off”.
    - Battery chargers such as those for cell phones and MP3 players consume electricity even when the electronic is charged.
    - Our national “phantom load” accounts for the same amount of energy produced by 7 power plants in a year.
- **Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled and Turn off your Engine**
  - In 2008, the average household will spend more than \$3,300 on gasoline.
  - Walk, bike, or use Blacksburg Transit whenever possible for your holiday shopping.
  - Shop locally and drive less.
  - Plan ahead, drive the most direct route, avoid unnecessary trips, and save fuel!
  - Reduce unnecessary vehicle idling.
  - Turn off your engine if it will idle for more than 15 seconds. It uses more fuel to idle an engine for 15 seconds than to turn it off and restart it again.
- **Reduce Drafts and Turn Down your Thermostat**
  - Properly insulate and seal your home and decrease heating costs by as much as 20%.
  - Seal and weather strip windows and doors.
  - Install high R-value insulation.
  - Install double paned windows, lower your storm windows, or install shrink and seal window kits.
  - Turn down your heat every night and when you leave home or better yet, install an Energy Star programmable thermostat.
  - For each degree you lower your thermostat in winter, you can save up to 5% on the heating portion of your energy bill.
- **Want Additional Information? Check out the following websites:**
  - Energy Star Program – [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
  - American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy – [www.aceee.org](http://www.aceee.org)
  - Alliance to Save Energy – [www.ase.org/consumers](http://www.ase.org/consumers)
  - US Department of Energy: Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy – [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)
  - Energy Hog – [www.energyhog.org](http://www.energyhog.org)