Heat Saving Energy Tips

1. Make sure your heating system receives professional maintenance each year.
2. Clean any warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting or drapes.
3. Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.
4. Run your kitchen, bath, and other ventilation fans for at least 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing.
5. Install a programmable thermostat that adjusts the temperature according to your schedule.
6. ENERGY STAR® labeled products can cut your energy bills up to 30%. Find retailers at www.energystar.gov when you're ready to replace your heating or cooling systems—as well as appliances, lighting, windows, office equipment, and home electronics.
7. Insulate your hot water heater and hot water pipes to prevent heat loss. Set your water heater temperature to 120°F.
8. Insulate heating ducts in unheated areas such as attics and crawlspaces and keep them in good repair, to prevent heat loss of up to 60% at the registers.
9. Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
10. Bleed trapped air from hot water radiators once or twice a season; if in doubt about how to perform this task, call a professional.
New Hampshire’s Fuel Assistance Program

If you are having trouble paying for your heat this winter season, the New Hampshire Fuel Assistance Program (FAP) may be able to provide you with some relief.

The New Hampshire Department of Energy distributes federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds to New Hampshire’s five Community Action Agencies (CAAs), which in turn distribute FAP benefits to eligible New Hampshire households throughout the state.

As funds become available, the Fuel Assistance Program provides benefits to qualified New Hampshire households to assist with heating costs. Both renters and homeowners may qualify for the Fuel Assistance Program.

FAP benefits may also be used to help households in a heating emergency by securing an emergency delivery of fuel or by delaying a utility disconnection or eviction notice if heat is included in the rent and the rent is not subsidized.

Am I Eligible?

Eligibility for the Fuel Assistance Program and the federal Weatherization Program are determined by gross household income (i.e. total before taxes), the number of people in the household, and the energy burden to the household. Income eligibility for both the FAP and the Weatherization Programs usually can be determined during the same appointment at your local CAA.

How Do I Apply?

1. Call your local CAA office to learn how to apply for FAP and Weatherization. (See the list of CAA office phone numbers on the side panel.)

2. Find out from the CAA staff where you will need to go and what you will need to bring, and schedule an appointment. To prevent delays in processing, be sure to bring all the requested materials with you to your appointment.

If you are homebound and unable to visit a CAA office, call your local CAA to arrange a home interview or an interview over the telephone.

New Hampshire’s Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Program may be able to help you save money on your annual energy costs by installing energy efficiency and conservation measures in your home.

The installation of energy efficient improvements (i.e. weather-stripping, insulation, air sealing) and heat source repairs can make your home warmer. It can also help you reduce the amount of money you spend to heat your home. The New Hampshire Department of Energy distributes federal funds to the Community Action Agencies throughout the state. Both renters and homeowners may be eligible for the Weatherization Program.

If you are found to be income-eligible for the program, a home energy auditor will schedule a time to perform an energy audit at your home as funding allows based upon priority. This audit will identify the most effective energy improvements for your home. A crew of trained workers will make the improvements. The energy auditor will return to your home after the work has been completed to inspect and evaluate the work and to explain the energy savings to you.

You do not need to accept FAP benefits in order to participate in the Weatherization Program, but you must be certified as eligible.