

4 Going Green

OUR JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN



E-Mission News From the Banks Hardwoods Environmental Committee • Holiday 2008

Good for Your Wallet and the Environment

It's that time of year again – lower temperatures and higher bills. But there's a myriad of energy saving information available that can help both your bank account and the planet. Here are a few highlights:



Turning Down the Thermostat Really Makes a Difference

Purdue University Cooperative Extension offered these real-world examples: *Family A* lowered their thermostat 5°F and **saved 5 percent** on their fuel bill. *Family B* decided to use a nighttime setback of 6°F, which they continued until 4 p.m. on weekdays and realized a **12 percent savings** on their annual fuel bill. *Family C* chose to set the thermostat at 67°F for the evening hours and weekend days and 58°F at night. They saved **30 percent!**

You Don't Have to Freeze

Use ceiling fans in reverse to push warm air down from the ceiling and a humidifier to keep your home at 40 to 50% humidity. Properly humidified air feels warmer (If your windows are sweating, it's a little too humid). And try an electric blanket. It's much less expensive than heating the whole house.

Do an Energy Audit

Many utility companies offer audits at little or no cost, but there is much you can do yourself. Look for any areas where gaps or cracks allow air infiltration – around doors, windows, and other areas. Use caulk, weather stripping, door sweeps, etc. Additional insulation in attics and walls can pay back very quickly. In addition:

- **Insulate floors over unheated spaces** such as your basement or crawl spaces. More heat loss is attributed to poorly insulated floor spaces and basements in the average house than through doors and windows!

- **Keep your heating equipment in top operating condition.** Poorly tuned units are inefficient and use more fuel. Clean filters can save up to \$60 a year on heating costs. Consider replacing very old heating systems. The savings can help pay for a new system.
- **Use plastic film and storm windows** on old single-pane windows and consider replacement if the energy savings warrant the cost.
- **Turn down the hot water heater temperature.** Wrap it with an insulating blanket to improve efficiency and turn it way down when you are on vacation.
- **Heat only the parts of your home that you're using.** Close off the attic, garage, basement, spare bedrooms and storage areas.

Other Tips You Might Have Missed

- **Use the Sun.** Open blinds on the south side on sunny days to gain solar heat. Close them in the evening or when cloudy. Heavy fabric curtains have the best insulation value.
- **Minimize use of bathroom fans** and kitchen hood fans in winter. Bathroom fans can suck all the heated air out of the average house in just over an hour!
- **Wrap heating duct joints with duct mastic** to improve efficiency and insulate them when they pass through unheated spaces.
- **Cut your shower time in half.** It can save up to 33% on your hot water heating costs.
- **Wash clothes in cold water** when possible.
- **Plant evergreens** as a wind block on the side of your home receiving the most winter wind to reduce heat loss.

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

How Much Savings?

By lowering your average thermostat setting by 5°F you can save the following:

If Heating Cost/Year	You Save
\$600	\$90
\$700	\$105
\$800	\$120
\$1,000	\$150
\$1,200	\$180
\$1,500	\$225
\$1,800	\$270
\$2,500	\$375

www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/AE/AE-94.html

E-Mission Statement

"As we strive to produce the highest quality lumber and provide the very best service to our customers, we will do everything within our means to minimize the harm we do to our environment."

Have a Suggestion?

Please send suggestions to regina@bankshardwoods.com.