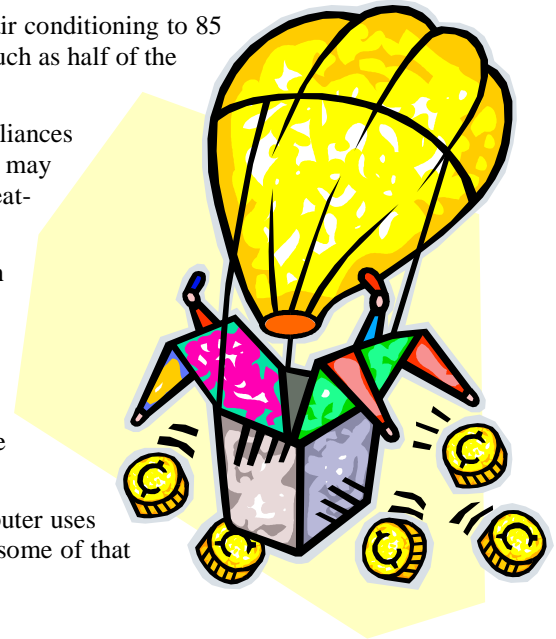


## Ten Ways to Lower Your Electric Bill

by Dan Haase, Associate Director of Facilities

10. Clean your dryer lint screen every time you use it. Occasionally wash it with dishwashing soap if you use dryer sheets to remove an invisible buildup. Be sure the dryer has a clear path for exhaust, and is not full of lint.
9. At night during the winter, turn down the heat and use an electric blanket if you need extra warmth. Electric blankets are very safe and efficient.
8. Avoid “shopping” with the refrigerator or freezer doors open. It will have to run longer to overcome the warm, humid air you let in. Get in and get out! If you notice a buildup of ice in the freezer, please call Campus Maintenance at 817-923-1921, ext. 2290 for assistance. An ice buildup makes the appliance run longer.
7. Don't use hot water unless you need to. Use cold water while brushing teeth, rinsing dishes to put in the dishwasher, etc.
6. If you will be gone more than overnight, set your heat to 55 degrees, or your air conditioning to 85 degrees. There is no need to condition your house when no one is home. As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating/cooling.
5. If you have a dishwasher, use it. Dishwashers are one of the most efficient appliances you have, if fully loaded. Washing a full load of dishes in a dishwasher may actually be cheaper than hand washing. Use the air-dry option instead of the heat-dry feature for even more savings.
4. Crock pots are another very efficient appliance, and some pretty good food can be made with little effort. Consider dusting yours off and using it!
3. Use a microwave for heating and a toaster oven for baking, rather than the oven. They much less the energy that an oven uses, with less heat wasted. If you do use the oven, avoid wasting the heat by peeking! In the winter, open the oven door to let the heat in the house when cooking is done, but do not use this as a supplemental heater by leaving it on.
2. Turn off your computer at least every night (or have it “go to sleep”). A computer uses about \$100 of electricity annually if left running continuously. You will save some of that energy if you turn it off every night, or even more frequently.



### AND THE #1 WAY TO LOWER YOUR ELECTRIC BILL...

1. Review a recent bill from your retail electric provider. Find out how much you are paying per KWH (the unit of measure of electricity). Go to [www.powertochoose.org](http://www.powertochoose.org) and see if you are paying a competitive rate. If not, then see what is involved in changing plans or providers. This one action can lower the amount you pay for electricity by as much as 40 percent! It's a good idea to review your contract terms annually.

Please do not exceed the rated wattage of light bulbs used in light fixtures in your apartment. The appropriate wattage is posted on the sockets (usually 60 or 75 watts). Exceeding the rated wattage puts you at risk of causing a fire or damage to the ceiling.

### Maintenance Requests 817-923-1921, ext. 2290

- Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Maintenance Repairs
- Pest Control and Rodent Control
- There is someone ready to answer your call

Sign up for the average billing or balanced billing program offered by your retail electric provider (REP). This will smooth out the highs and lows of your monthly bills, making them very predictable. If your REP does not allow you to sign up without building many months of history, there are other providers who will estimate your usage and sign you up right away.