



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate

CONSUMERS' FACT SHEET

Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

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Energy Efficiency SCAVENGER HUNT

Are you an energy saver or an energy waster?



The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel's (OCC) Energy Efficiency Scavenger Hunt is a fun way to determine the energy savers and energy wasters in your home.

Look throughout your house. As you go, look for each of the categories to earn points in the "Energy Efficiency Savers" section or earn negative points in the "Energy Efficiency Wasters" section.

Once you have completed both sections, subtract the total number or "Energy Efficiency Wasters" from the "Energy Efficiency Savers" to see how you measure up.

The higher the number at the end, the better an "Energy Efficiency Saver" you are.

Energy Efficiency Savers

Earn points for each energy saver you find in your home. Total the number of points at the bottom of the column.

+ _____	How many Energy Star products do you have in your home? <i>(You may need to look at the owners manuals.)</i>	Earn 1 point for every Energy Star product in your home.	Products with the Energy Star logo meet or exceed energy efficiency standards. Visit www.energystar.gov for more information.
+ _____	Have you done a Home Energy Audit?	Earn 0 points for "no" and 5 points for "yes." 10 points for a professional audit.	A do-it-yourself energy audit can help identify the best and most economical ways to reduce energy wasters.
+ _____	How many compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and/or light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs are already in use in your home?	Earn 1 point for every CFL or LED bulb you find in your home.	CFLs last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs and use 25 to 75 percent less energy. LED bulbs can last up to five times longer than any comparable light bulb on the market, depending on usage.
+ _____	Is your dryer filter clean and ready for the next load of clothes to dry?	Earn 0 points for "no" and 5 points for "yes."	A clean lint filter in the dryer improves air circulation and saves energy when drying clothes.

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The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), the residential utility consumer advocate, represents the interests of 4.5 million households in proceedings before state and federal regulators and in the courts.

The state agency also educates consumers about electric, natural gas, telephone and water issues.

For more information, please visit the OCC website at www.occ.ohio.gov.



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Energy Efficiency Savers

Earn points for each energy saver you find in your home. Total the number of points at the bottom of the column.

+ _____	Do you use a programmable thermostat or turn your thermostat back manually when away for at least 6-8 hours or when sleeping?	Earn 0 points for "no" and 5 points for "yes."	Save money with a programmable thermostat that allows you to preset a heating and cooling schedule and better manage the temperature. For customers with heat pumps, be sure to use an appropriate programmable thermostat. Setting back the thermostat by 10° to 15° for 8 hours can save 5 to 15 percent a year on heating bills.
+ _____	Have you checked your furnace filter in the last month to see if it needs changed?	Earn 0 points for "no" and 5 points for "yes."	A clean furnace filter makes the heating and cooling system run more efficiently and saves energy.
+ _____	Total Energy Efficiency Saver Points		

Energy Efficiency Wasters

Lose points for each energy waster you find in your home. Total the number of points at the bottom of the column.

- _____	How many lights are on in a room when no one is in the room?	Earn 1 negative point for each light left on with no one in the room.	Always turn off the lights when they are not in use.
- _____	How many cell phone chargers are plugged in at your house that do not have a cell phone attached to the charger or are already fully charged?	Earn 1 negative point for each charger that is plugged in that is not actively charging a cell phone.	The cell phone charger is charging regardless of whether a cell phone is attached or if the cell phone is fully charged. After the phone is fully charged, the charging is only wasting energy if there is no phone attached to it.
- _____	How many blocked registers or baseboard heaters and radiators are in your house?	Earn 1 negative point for each blocked register, heater or radiator.	Registers, baseboard heaters and radiators should be clean and unblocked to increase efficiency of the heating and cooling system.
- _____	How many leaky faucets do you have in your home?	Earn 1 negative point for each leaky faucet.	A leaky faucet can waste up to six gallons of water a day. When it is a hot water faucet, the energy to heat the water is also being wasted.
- _____	Is your computer left on continually throughout the day even though no one is using it?	Earn 5 negative points for each computer left on when not in use.	Computers consume a considerable amount of energy. When not in use, they should be turned off. You can save even more by unplugging it.
- _____	Do you turn off the television when you are not using it?	Earn 5 negative points for each television left on when not in use.	Television sets consume about 75 watts of power when turned on. The wasted energy adds up quickly when you are not watching it.
- _____	Total Energy Efficiency Waster Points		

+ _____ **Total Energy Efficiency Saver Points**

- _____ **Total Energy Efficiency Waster Points**

_____ **Total Energy Efficiency Points**