



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate

CONSUMERS' FACT SHEET

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Smart Energy

HOME ENERGY AUDIT

Reduce energy usage and save on utility bills



According to the 2017 data from the Energy Information Administration, the average annual utility bill in Ohio was \$1,276. Americans invest more than 75 percent of their utility dollars on heating, cooling, lighting, cooking, and running other appliances in their homes.

By incorporating a few simple changes, a typical household can reduce its energy

usage and save on natural gas and electric bills.

Walk room by room through your house and review this checklist to see how many changes have already been made and ones where additional changes can be made to save energy. The Smart Energy Home Audit can be repeated to track your progress over time.

Home Energy Audit Questions	Never	Sometimes	Always
Kitchen			
Is the temperature in the refrigerator set between 37-40°?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the temperature in the freezer set between 0-5°?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are pots and pans covered when cooking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To clean off dishes, do you scrape away food debris rather than rinse it from the dishes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you wash full loads in the dishwasher?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the seal around your refrigerator and freezer door properly sealed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your Tap Flow Rate between 9 and 15 liters per minute?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you air dry dishes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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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.



The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.

Home Energy Audit Questions	Never	Sometimes	Always
Bathroom			
Do you use energy efficient shower heads in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you use water-saving toilets in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laundry Room			
Do you wash and dry full loads in washer and dryer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you wash as many loads as possible with cold or warm water, instead of hot?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you check the lint filter on your clothes dryer before and after each use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your washing machine a front loader or AAA+ rated top loader?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All Rooms			
Do you shut drapes or blinds to block summer sun or winter chill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you turn out the lights when you leave a room?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you use compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) or Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs) in your home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you unblocked heating registers, air supplies, and return vents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are your light bulbs free of dirt and dust? Dust absorbs light and reduces efficiency.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you unplugged the standby (vampire) power culprits in your home such as rarely used televisions, DVDs, cell phone chargers, and other electronics?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you shut down computers if you will not be using them for two hours instead of just logging off?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you turn your computer monitor off instead of letting it set in sleep mode?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When replacing appliances did you purchase Energy Star?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you located all air leaks (drafts) and sealed them?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you checked your insulation for stains? These often indicate air leaks from a hole behind the insulation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total			

Let's see how you did. Score 10 points for every "always," 5 points for every "sometimes" and 0 points for every "Never."

0-50 A GOOD START, but you can save more...

55-105 CONGRATULATIONS! You are on your way, but you can still save more...

110-160 WELL DONE! You are well on your way, but you can still save a little more...

165-200 EXCELLENT! You are an Energy Saver!

Check out the OCC's Smart Energy Tips, Learn about Vampire Power, Improving Home Energy Efficiency, Beat the Heat Summer Cooling Tips, and An OCC Guide to Water Conservation fact sheets for additional ways to save at www.occ.ohio.gov.