# Frederick County Government
# Energy Conservation Committee

*From the Desk of*

To All County Employees:

Welcome to Energy Dog's page on SharePoint. What an Intranet system! The IIT experts taught me how to put stuff on it. So, when the boss asked me, I plowed ahead and posted a list of energy-saving tips from my previous memos. I have researched and shared lots of dog-gone good energy and money saving tips through the years. Now they are all in one, convenient place. Keep on reading and come back often. I'll keep the dog-house light on for ya!

**Tip #1**

Turn off room lights whenever no one is there. If you are gone for more than a few minutes, it saves dollars, and it keeps you in practice for conservation. Offices, conference rooms, restrooms, copy rooms……..Turn off the lights when they are not in use.

**Tip #2**

Don't let your vehicle idle unnecessarily. Modern cars and trucks do not need to idle before starting off on a drive. Idling wastes fuel.

**Tip #3**

Avoid jackrabbit starts. A quick kick of the accelerator will burn up to twice the fuel an easy start uses. So go easy……smooth starts and easy braking will not only save fuel but save on vehicle repair costs.

**Tip #4**

When the sun is shining directly in, close the blinds…shades or curtains to help reduce the sun's rays. Doing this will increase your comfort level and conserve energy!

**Tip #5**

If you need to go up one floor or down two floors, consider taking the stairs instead of the elevator. This saves electricity and its good exercise for you! Not everyone can do this, but if you are able, give it a try! Remember…Before you push the Elevator Button..... "ONE up……TWO down!!"

*"Don't be a hog, be an Energy Watchdog"*

Tip #6

Let your building manager know about energy losses in your building. Or share an idea for energy conservation. Report:

- Leaky faucets
- Lights left on after hours
- Doors that don't seal tight
- Open storm windows
- Other energy wasters

Tip #7

Retrieve energy savings at home. Make it a family project, too!

Tip #8

How you drive affects fuel economy!!! Pay attention to your driving habits and your vehicle. It really does make a difference!

- Driving 10 miles over the speed limit can use 8-10% more fuel.
- Low tire pressure can use 7-17% more fuel.
- A rough running engine can use 24% more fuel.

Tip #9

Turn electronics off when they are not needed – computers, monitors, printers, chargers. Pay special attention when you leave to go home, that EVERYTHING that can be turned off is OFF. Even when monitors and printers are in sleep mode, they draw energy. So hit the switch…make the lights go out!!

Tip #10

Be a part of conservation. Encourage others to be a part. The dividends are huge.

Tip #11

Observe the speed limit. Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional $0.20 per gallon for gas.

Tip #12

Change light bulbs to CFL's and save money. If you have lights that are used at least 15 minutes at a time or are on several hours per day you can save by switching from incandescent bulbs to CFL bulbs.

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**Tip #13**

Use your fans more often. When air is circulating it gives a wind-chill effect that can make a room feel at least 4 degrees cooler. Instead of setting your thermostat at 74 degrees, set it to 78 degrees and use your fan. It is definitely cheaper to run your fan more and your air-conditioning less!

**Tip #14**

Use your microwave instead of your stove. A microwave uses 2/3 less energy and doesn't heat up your kitchen as much as the oven.

**Tip #15**

Replace your air-conditioning filters. This ensures proper airflow, promotes better health and increases your efficiency. Dirty filters can cause a system to run longer since the dirt restricts the airflow.

**Tip #16**

Close your blinds and curtains during the day to keep your room or office cooler. Using internal window coverings can make a big difference when trying to keep your office and home cool. Window coverings can block out at least 45% of the sun's rays.

**Tip #17**

Tune your car regularly. Just replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's efficiency by 10%. It keeps the impurities from damaging the inside of your engine.

**Tip #18**

Avoid lengthy idling. The average driver (unnecessarily) idles 10 minutes per day, which uses more than 27 gallons of fuel a year…what a waste!

**Tip #19**

Plan your trips carefully. When your engine is cold it uses more fuel, combining trips can improve your gas mileage because your engine will be warm for most of the trip. Several short trips on a cold engine can use twice as much fuel as a single, longer trip that covers the same distance.

Tip #20

Use a power strip to switch off equipment when not in use. If you have appliances which are used regularly, consider placing all the appliances in that general area onto a power strip which can be switched off easily.

Tip #21

Brighten your tree or home by replacing your holiday lights with light emitting diodes (LED) bulbs. LED holiday lights use up to 90% less energy than traditional bulbs and remain cool to the touch making them safer for children and trees.

Tip #22

Lower your thermostat temperature for 8 hours per day. Resetting your thermostat from 72 degrees to 65 degrees for at least 8 hours per day (when no one is home or while you are tucked in bed) can cut your heating bill up to 10%.

Tip #23

Turning off un-needed lights in offices, restrooms, hallways and conference rooms makes a big difference when it comes to energy savings! According to Energy Star, lighting takes a large share (35%) of a commercial building's electricity use. Turning off the un-needed lights in unused areas especially after the building is closed to the public can lead to large savings in the County's electricity bills.

Tip #24

Turn daylight savings into DAYLIGHTING savings! DAYLIGHTING is allowing natural light to light rooms or corridors that would otherwise be artificially lit.

Tip #25

Keep your heating and cooling registers and cold-air returns clear of furniture and drapes! This will improve your system efficiency and your comfort level.

Tip #26

Be sure to keep appliances and lights away from your thermostat! If you have appliances or lights located near your thermostat the additional heat they produce will cause your air-conditioning to run more frequently costing you more money.

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Tip #27

Rise and Shine Early!! Driving during off-peak hours will help you reduce fuel costs and stress by avoiding stop-and-go or bumper-to-bumper traffic conditions.

Tip #28

Avoid carrying items on your vehicle's roof. A loaded roof rack or carrier increases weight and aerodynamic drag, which can cut mileage by 5% or more.

Tip #29

Use cruise control. Cruise control cuts fuel consumption by maintaining a steady speed during highway driving.

Tip #30

Accelerate and brake smoothly. Accelerating smoothly from a stop and braking softly conserves fuel. Fast starts, weaving in and out of traffic and hard braking wastes fuel and wears out brakes and tires more quickly.

Tip #31

Keep your tires properly inflated to the vehicle's recommended tire pressure. Properly inflated tires can reduce the average amount of fuel use by 3-4 percent. Under-inflated tires increase rolling resistance and reduce fuel economy, and causes tires to wear unevenly and more quickly.

Tip #32

Weatherize your home by caulking and weather stripping any leaky windows and doors. Cold air can make its way in through several areas in your home and in some homes you can feel those cold drafts especially on windy days. Caulking and weather stripping windows and doors is a good place to start in preventing those drafts. Weatherizing will lower utility bills and improve your comfort and humidity control. For additional information on weather stripping check-out the Energy Savers page at http//www.energysavers.gov/your_home/insulation_airsealing/index.cfm/mytopic=11280

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