



Winterize your vehicle by checking your air filter and fluid levels, checking tires for tread wear and proper inflation, and checking the condition of your windshield wipers. Ensuring your vehicle is ready for weather changes will reduce damage, which prevents waste from broken parts, and will keep you safe on the road.

Reduce the house temperature one degree at a time, and wear a sweater or fleece to stay comfy. At night or when you're away, set your thermostat for lower temperatures. Keep your window drapes closed at night, and close doors to seldom-used rooms until you need them. Caulk windows and doors to keep heat inside and cold air out. Ask your utility company for a home energy audit to find out how to improve your home's insulation and energy efficiency. Purchase "green energy" when that option is available from your utility company. (Green energy is renewable and sustainable energy)

Insulate your water heater and pipes. Turn the temperature on your water heater down to 120 degrees or install an on-demand water heater. Even better, install a solar water-heater system. Take shorter showers and install low-flow showerheads and faucets. Wash your clothes in cold water unless they are heavily stained, and line dry if possible.

Install energy-efficient, compact fluorescent lights. They last longer and cost less in electricity. Turn off your computer when not in use for several hours or more. (According to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, modern hard disks are not significantly affected by frequent shut-downs as the older models were.) Use your microwave, for one-third of the energy outlay of your conventional oven. Choose energy-efficient appliances (look for the Energy Star label).