

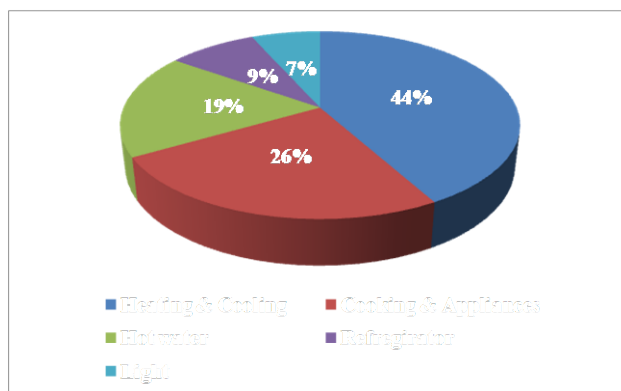


ENERGY E-TIPS

September 15, 2010

What You Need to Know When Buying Appliances:

The large appliances in the home account for the majority of household energy usage. As you can see from the figure below that, the home energy use can be approximately distributed as follows: 44% for heating & cooling, 26% for cooking and appliances, 14% for hot water, 9% for refrigerator and 7% for light. Therefore, it is crucial that we purchase more energy efficient models and use appliances in an efficient way to save energy and money. Energy efficient appliances can positively influence the Arkansas energy bills. This edition of ENERGY E-TIPS will look at the three major areas of appliance cost, and will guide Arkansas citizens to make energy-efficient purchases for their homes.



Home Energy Use

Consumers of household appliances must recognize that there are three parts of cost when purchasing or using appliances. These include: (a) purchase cost, (b) maintenance cost and (c) operating cost.

Purchase cost is obvious, and usually the first one a buyer considers. Maintenance cost includes the price for repairs and overall maintenance. Operating cost is equally important, though often overlooked; and changes with the cost of fuel, appliance usage, and overall efficiency of the appliance. Remember, that the efficiency of an appliance may change as the appliance ages. Considering all three costs will help keep total expenditures on household appliances as low as possible.

When looking to purchase a new appliance, there are two key items to look for to make sure it is energy efficient: EnergyGuide Label and Energy Star Logo. For more information on these, please visit the Energy E-tips articles about them at: http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/News/Energy_ETips/energy_etips.htm. Remember that these two labels are not the same, and make sure to review all the energy related information to be assured that you are purchasing an energy efficient model.

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating.

Here are some general energy saving tips for purchasing appliances:

- **Determine Appliance Energy Use** – The US Department of Energy has a useful website that explains how to estimate appliance and home electronic energy use. This site can be found here: http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/appliances/index.cfm/mytopic=10040.
- **Contact Your Local Utility Company** – Check with your local utility company to see if they offer any rebates or incentives for the purchase of energy efficient appliances (a rebate makes that energy efficient dishwasher or refrigerator an even more attractive buy, and some utility companies even pay you to turn in older working inefficient models).
- **Find Special Offers or Rebates** – By visiting the EnergyStar website at: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=rebate.rebate_locator regularly, the consumer will become aware of any special offers or rebates available from Energy Star partners
- **State Incentives** – Consumers can visit the database for state incentives for renewable and efficiency (DSIRE) website at <http://dsireusa.org/>.
- **Replace old appliances before they break down** – Old units, even when they still work, can be a money and energy wasting area. Replacing an old model air conditioner alone can save 10% on utility bills!
- **Major appliance shopping guide** – This easy-to-read guide may help you understand how appliances are rated for efficiency, what the ratings mean, and what to look for while shopping for new appliances. It can be found at the following site: http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/shopping_guide.html

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