# ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

## Lighting

- Turn off lights when the room doesn't need to be lit.
- Survey your incandescent light bulbs (traditional light bulbs) for opportunities to replace them with Energy Star-qualified compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). These new lamps can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescents. The best targets are 60-100W bulbs that are left on for several hours a day. Since compact fluorescents are slightly bigger than incandescents, be sure to measure the clearance in your fixtures to make sure they will accommodate fluorescents.
    - CFLs produce about 75% less heat so they are safer to handle and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling. They initially cost more than traditional bulbs, but they also last up to 7 years!
- Keep bulbs clean.
    - Dust can cut light output by as much as 25%.

## Appliances

- Replace aging, inefficient appliances. Even if the appliance has a few useful years left, replacing it with an energy-efficient (Energy Star-qualified) model is generally a good investment.
    - When you buy an appliance, you are paying two prices: the initial cost of the item and extended cost, the cost you will pay over the item's lifetime for its upkeep. Appliances qualified by Energy Star have been approved by the U.S. Dept. of Energy and insure that you are paying less than you would with an unapproved product.

## Refrigerators

- Cover and wrap food in your refrigerator.
    - Uncovered food and liquids release moisture and drive up electricity costs. Decide what you want from the refrigerator before opening the door, then close the door quickly afterwards.
- Check the temperature. If the temperature is lower than $37^{o}$-$40^{o}$ F, you are losing money. The freezer should be between $0^{o}$-$5^{o}$ F.
    - To check the temperature of your refrigerator, put a thermometer in a glass of water place it in the refrigerator. To test the freezer, simply put the thermometer next to your frozen goods. Check the temperature in 24 hours to get an accurate reading.
- Check the seals.
    - Take a piece of paper and close the refrigerator door on it, leaving half of it outside. Try to pull the paper out. If you meet little to no resistance without the door opening, you may need to adjust the door latch or replace the rubber seals.

**Water**

- Install water-saving showerheads.
  - They use about ⅓ to ½ the water that regular showerheads use.
- Install low-flow faucet aerators.
  - They reduce the amount of water released without sacrificing water pressure.
- Repair leaking faucets.
  - Thirty (30) leaked drops a minute can waster as much as 50 gallons a month!
- Wash laundry in cold water instead of hot. Use hot water only for very dirty loads. Wash and dry only full loads. Clean the lint filter after every load.

**Miscellaneous**

- Seal up the largest air leaks in your house. The trouble-spots that whistle on windy days or feel drafty are usually not windows and doors, but utility cut-throughs for pipes ("plumbing penetrations"), recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

- Small, nearly invisible cracks and holes can waste as much energy as an open window or door, without you ever knowing it. Sometimes you can identify the worst leaks yourself. For a more thorough investigation you can hire an energy auditor such as Harlem CDC's Weatherization Assistance Program to check your home using specialized equipment".

- Ceiling fans make people feel about four degrees cooler than the actual temperature.

- Install a programmable thermostat, and program it to turn down the heating or cooling when you are not home and when you are sleeping.

- Use the smallest pans possible; it takes less energy to heat them. Use lids; they cook food more quickly by keeping the steam in the pan. Use glass pans in ovens; they heat faster than metal pans.