

# VALUE YOUR POWER

## VIRGINIA ENERGY SENSE

### Virginia Energy Sense Hits the Road

Starting with the [Richmond Earth Day Festival](#) on Saturday, April 21, the Virginia Energy Sense team is coming to a Richmond community near you!

Throughout the spring, summer and fall, the Virginia Energy Sense program will visit Richmond neighborhoods, communities and business events to talk to residents about how a few [simple steps](#) can help you save energy and money on utility bills.

To help Virginians realize the savings of a few [do-it-yourself home projects](#), Virginia Energy Sense is challenging Virginians to take the pledge at each event. If you see our booth in your neighborhood, swing by and commit the 10% challenge and pledge to take steps— at home, school and work—to reduce the amount of electricity you use.



To find tips to help you start living the pledge today, visit [virginiaenergysense.org](http://virginiaenergysense.org). Don't forget to visit our [newsroom](#) to sign up for the latest events and news updates.

### Partner Resources



Partners and businesses, Virginia Energy Sense has helpful resources for you too!

To help reduce energy waste around your office, print and post our tips for [saving energy in the workplace](#) and get your employees involved in the effort! A little rivalry between departments can go a long way towards conserving energy in the office. In the coming weeks, we look forward to sharing more details about the community events Virginia Energy Sense will be attending, new online resources and

other tools we encourage you to share with your employees. Virginia Energy Sense welcomes the opportunity to talk with residents about conserving energy at home, work and school. Our team is available to answer questions and direct homeowners to free resources and tips for do-it-yourself home projects.

Do you have an event or organizational meeting you'd like us to attend? Do you want more information about how businesses, schools or other organizations can become a Virginia Energy Sense partner? Email us at [energysense@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:energysense@scc.virginia.gov).

## Spring Tips

As spring arrives in full force across the state, many Virginians are prepping their homes for the warmer days ahead. Virginia Energy Sense has a few tips to ensure your home stays comfortable and energy efficient:

- Reset your programmable thermostat to the warmest comfortable temperature to save on cooling costs. Raise the temperature to go to bed or leave your home for the day.



- If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort.

- Have your cooling system serviced once a year and regularly replace air filters. During the summer months when cooling is used more frequently, change or clean air filters once a month.

- Keep shades and curtains closed during the day on the south side of your home to prevent your A/C unit from working twice as hard to cool the space. If the weather cools off at night, turn off your cooling system and open your windows while sleeping. When you wake in the morning, shut the windows and blinds to capture the cool air.

- On hot days, avoid using the oven; cook on the stove, use a microwave oven or grill outside.

- As you unpack summer clothes and equipment from storage, ensure your attic and basement are properly insulated. If your insulation is below or about level with your floor joists (i.e. you can easily see your joists), you will benefit from more insulation.

- Dress for the weather instead of turning up the air conditioning. Lighter fabrics and colors cool you naturally.

- Consider air-drying clothes on clothes lines or drying racks. Air drying is recommended by clothing manufacturers for some fabrics, which will keep the clothes dryer off and make your home cooler while reducing your energy use.

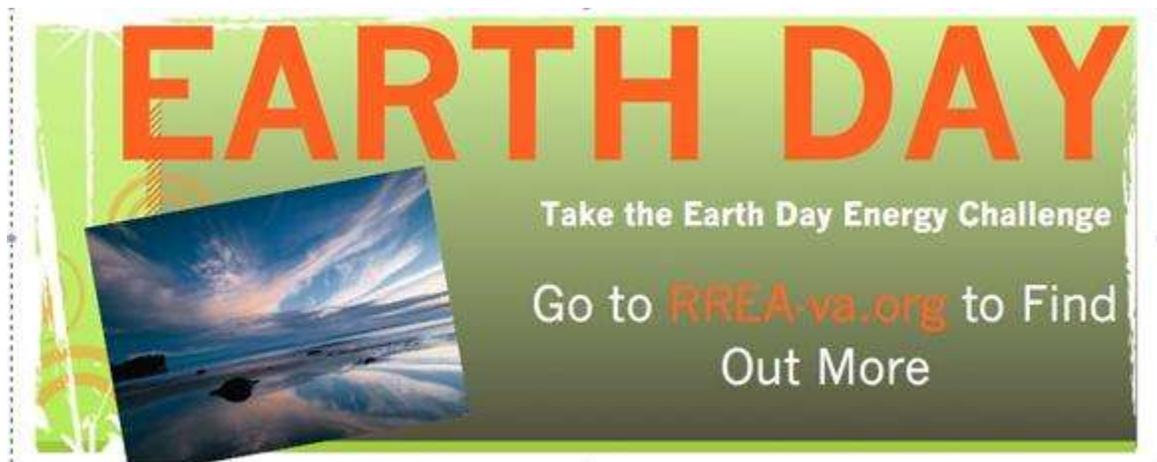
## Richmond Earth Day Energy Challenge

Virginia Energy Sense has teamed up with the Richmond Region Energy Alliance and 16 other businesses and organizations in Richmond to help local residents make their homes more energy efficient just in time for Earth Day.

Richmond-area residents who enter the Earth Day Energy Challenge will automatically be entered into a drawing to win one of five free in-home professional energy assessments. The contest runs from April 2 through Earth Day on April 22, so you still have 4 days to enter for your chance to win!

To enter the contest, homeowners must conduct a free and easy online energy assessment that

will instantly recommend ways to make your home more energy efficient. Homeowners can also sign up by visiting the RREA booth at the Richmond Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 21.



For more details and information, visit the Richmond Region Energy Alliance [website](#).

If you're not in the Richmond area, don't worry – there are plenty low or no-cost DIY projects you can accomplish yourself. Check out our [home energy check list](#), or [do your own energy assessment](#) and don't forget to visit the Virginia Energy Sense [website](#) for other efficiency tips!

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