

# VALUE YOUR POWER

## VIRGINIA ENERGY SENSE



### Does Your Home Pass the Energy Test? Find Out Now!

There are many ways to reduce energy use, from quick changes we can make ourselves, to those that may require additional time and resources from a professional. Virginia Energy Sense now offers an easy online **Home Energy Test** -- it takes about five minutes -- to help homeowners evaluate their home's energy use and opportunities to save.

The Home Energy Test asks a few simple questions about your home -- such as when it was built, its square footage, and

the types of appliances you have. After you take the test, you'll receive a custom report that includes energy upgrade recommendations, cost estimates and resources to learn (and do) more. Once you've decided on the best projects for your home, check out our **tips** and guides to help you make the energy improvements. You can also explore **financial incentives** that may help you reduce the cost of your efficiency upgrades.

How much you can save (energy and dollars) and how fast you can do so is up to you. Visit our **website** and take the **Home Energy Test**, today!

### That's Nonsense; Get Virginia Energy Sense

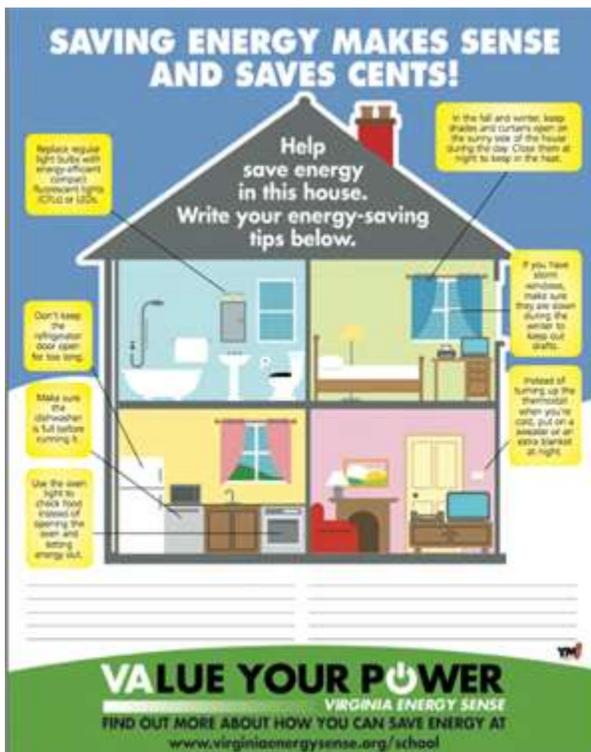
With many Virginians facing extreme summer temperatures and spikes in their electricity bills due to increased cooling, there's no better time to do more to reduce our energy use.

Check out the new video series, "**That's Nonsense; Get Virginia Energy Sense**"

which takes a humorous approach to highlight some of the unorthodox ways homeowners may be trying to save energy – and the many simpler, low cost efforts that can make a big impact on curbing energy consumption. The **videos** offer quick tips and home improvements to show how each of us can "VAValue Your Power."



The videos will air on TV stations statewide, so keep an eye out for them! Feel free to [share](#) them with family, friends and coworkers so you can help us spread the word about the importance of saving energy!



## Bringing Energy Education Into the Classroom

It's never too early to start teaching the basics of energy efficiency. In an effort to help students understand how they use energy and steps they and their family can take at home to reduce energy waste, Virginia Energy Sense created a curriculum supplement geared toward third, fourth and fifth graders. Building upon Virginia's science and math curriculum standards, the materials feature such lessons as:

**It All Adds Up:** A two-part activity about components of an electricity bill and how to track energy usage.

**Saving At Home:** A three-part math lesson about how much electricity common household appliances use.

**'Value Your Power' Family Scoreboard:** Students work with their families to track their energy habits and come up with ideas to save energy.

**Poster:** Features energy-saving tips by room and provides space for students' ideas to reduce energy use.

If you know teachers or youth organizations in your community that may be interested in these materials, email us at: [energysense@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:energysense@scc.virginia.gov). You can download digital copies of the activities by visiting our '[At School](#)' page.

## Beat the Summer Heat; Quick Tips to Keep You Cool and Efficient

As the heat wave continues during these warm summer

- Minimal changes in temperature can yield big utility savings. Turn up your thermostat a degree or two and lower

## months, here are some quick tips that can help you stay cool and still save:

- Understand your energy use! Conduct your own home energy audit and use our handy checklist and new home energy test to get started and see where you can make energy efficiency upgrades in your home. Understanding your utility bill is also a great way to start learning how to save energy. Take a look at the "Understand Your Bill" section on the Virginia Energy Sense site for more details.
- Keep shades and curtains closed during the day to prevent the sun from heating up your home.
- your water heater's maximum temperature — 120 degrees should be sufficient for most homes.
- Leaks and drafts cause unnecessary energy waste and expense. Caulk and weather-strip all doors and windows to seal in cool air during the summer and reduce drafts in the winter and cut energy bills by 5% to 30% per year!
- If you're purchasing new appliances this year or upgrading your home in any way, be sure to go green. Choose Energy Star certified products and check out our incentives guide to see if any of your home energy efficiency projects qualify for rebates or tax incentives. Don't forget to invest in small fixes like power strips and energy efficient light bulbs.



## For More Information:

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