

VALUE YOUR POWER

VIRGINIA ENERGY SENSE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Energy Efficient Homes Showcase
- Celebrate the Holidays with Savings
- Connect With Us

Countdown to Take the 10% Challenge



As you think about New Year's resolutions, consider making more resourceful energy user part of your list. Virginians all across the state are working to reduce energy consumption by 10%. And we want you to join us!

Will you resolve to Take the 10% Challenge? By accepting the challenge, you agree to take steps to at home, work and school to become more energy efficient.

Will you VAalue Your Power and help us meet our goal? Click on the image above and start the New Year off right!

Energy Efficient Homes Showcase



Virginia Energy Sense is proud to present our new virtual **Energy Efficient Homes Showcase!** This interactive tour highlights energy-saving technologies and improvements your neighbors have made across the state. Visit the showcase to learn more about

energy efficient projects in Virginia, including:

- A home that uses nearly zero energy
- Homes that use solar technologies to warm the basement floor and hot water
- A homeowner who added insulation and air sealed to save \$800 to \$900 on energy costs per year
- A 19th Century home with passive solar heat and light systems!

Feeling inspired? Check out our **resources** to find out how you can value your power at home. Tell us about your efforts on our **Facebook page** and we'll include it in the next round of the **Showcase**.

Celebrate the Holidays with Savings

The holidays have arrived and who doesn't want to save money during this season? Whether you're packing your bags to visit the family or hosting the holiday party at your home, Virginia Energy Sense has some tips to help you save energy and keep your wallet happier.



If you're hosting the party:

- Turn down your thermostat a few degrees – or more. Since more bodies translate into more heat, you'll keep everyone comfortable and keep your heating bill in check.
- Use candles outside to light walkways, patios and even indoor rooms to create a festive mood and save on your lighting costs.
- Before guests arrive, assign a family member to power down computers,

turn off non-entertaining room lights and unplug appliances and electronics you won't be using while enjoying time with friends and family.

If you're preparing the feast:

- › Skip the preheat. Since it takes several hours to cook a ham or turkey, help your oven save energy where it can.
- › Gather all your ingredients in one trip from the refrigerator, rather than cause it to 'lose its cool' every time you open the door.
- › Cover foods stored in your fridge. Moisture from uncovered food makes the compressor work harder.

If you're shopping for gifts:

- › Consider giving local hardware store gift cards so friends and family can make energy improvements to their home.
- › Look for blankets, warm sweaters, fuzzy socks and slippers to help your friends and family members stay warm and cozy in their house, allowing them to turn back the thermostat a few degrees.
- › Look for the [Energy Star](#) label on appliances, televisions, laptops and other electronics to make sure your gift is energy-efficient and will help your family and friends save money all year long.

If you're traveling:

- › Turn off lights and unplug household appliances that won't be in use while you are away.
- › Adjust your programmable thermostat. Setting the temperature back 8-10 degrees while away from your home can save up to \$180 a year.
- › Reduce the temperature on your hot water heater. You can even shut it off altogether if there's no risk of temperatures cold enough to freeze your pipes.

Have your own tips for saving energy this holiday season? Share them on our [Facebook](#) page!

Connect With Us

To learn more, visit:

 **Website:** www.VirginiaEnergySense.org

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