

News and Information from Your Home Comfort Team

Kosco Comfort



Serving Columbia, Dutchess, Ulster, and Greene Counties

A Site that can Really Help You Save On Your Heating Bill.

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The current administration recently announced a major new partnership aimed at reducing household energy costs by 10 percent over the next decade. The Partnership for Home Energy Efficiency will provide energy saving solutions for all households across the country and support research and implementation of a new generation of energy efficiency technologies.

Energy efficient homes are less costly to own, operate and maintain, and they are more comfortable. Americans spend more than \$160 billion a year to heat, cool, light, and live in our homes. This energy represents about 21 percent of the national total and includes significant demand for electricity and natural gas. Many households could save 20-30 percent on their household energy bills by implementing energy efficiency improvements. The Partnership for Home Energy Efficiency primarily focuses on existing homes -- both owned and rented.

The local web site <http://www.koscocomfort.com/fuel.shtml> will provide links to sites designed to provide practical information to improve the energy efficiency of their properties to homeowners and rental property owners wishing to make improvements.

Americans spend more than \$160 billion a year to heat, cool, light and live in their homes. By taking advantage of home energy efficiencies, an average American family could save \$150 a year.

"For most owners and renters, utility bills are the second largest household expense," HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson said. "That's why housing affordability and energy efficiency go hand in hand. By reducing the price of utility bills, we reduce the cost of living for the nation's low- and moderate-income families."

In addition to the billions of dollars lost through energy inefficiencies, household power waste contributes to the power plant emissions that create soot, smog and acid rain and lead to increases of greenhouse gases. Today, about 17 percent of U.S. greenhouse gases come from residential energy use, and while newly-constructed homes are more efficient than they were 30 years ago, more can be done.

"Last year, through the help of ENERGY STAR, Americans chose to invest in cleaner air and healthier lives -- all the while saving enough energy to power 18 million homes and cutting \$10 billion from their energy bills," EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson said. "We are delighted to work with our federal partners offering households energy efficiency solutions that lower energy bills, avoid emissions from power plants and provide the next generation a healthier, cleaner environment."

Goals of the Partnership for Home Energy Efficiency include:

- Expand efforts to promote ENERGY STAR® products;
- Develop durable, comfortable, affordable homes that use 40-50 percent less energy;
- Develop new energy efficiency services to provide homeowners with greater savings, such as Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®;
- Deliver energy efficiency savings to low income and subsidized housing;
- Continue to invest in innovative research in building science technologies, practices, and policies; and
- By 2020, provide design technologies and building practices to allow cost- effective net-zero energy homes.

In addition, individuals can take many simple steps today to help make their homes more energy efficient. They are:

- Replace incandescent bulbs with lights that have earned the government's ENERGY STAR® label.
- Use a programmable thermostat with your air conditioner to adjust the setting warmer at night, or when no one is home.
- Use a fan with your window air conditioner to spread cool air through your home.
- If your air conditioner is old, look for a new one that has earned the ENERGY STAR® label. New energy-efficient models can save you up to 50 percent on your cooling bills.
- Just three trees, properly placed around a house, can save between \$100 and \$250 annually in cooling and heating costs. Daytime air temperatures can be 3 to 6 degrees cooler in tree-shaded neighborhoods.
- Plant trees or shrubs to shade air conditioning units, but do not block the airflow.
- Sunny windows can make your air conditioner work two to three times harder. Install white window shades, drapes or blinds to reflect heat away from the house.
- If you want to replace your windows, look for windows that qualify for the ENERGY STAR® label, and consider the new double-pane windows with spectrally selective coatings.
- Check to see that your fireplace damper is tightly closed.



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