



IQAP INSIGHTS

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LEARN

As the days get warmer, we begin thinking about keeping our house cool. Many factors can contribute to raising the temperature in your home other than the weather. This month, we explore quick, simple ways to keep our energy bills low even as the temperature rises.

ACT

Quick Tips

- Open windows at night to allow cooler air in and close them in the morning to keep the heat out throughout the day. Be sure to close the curtains and/or blinds to keep out sunlight. If you have blackout curtains, they do it best!
- When cooking, skip the oven and use the microwave or toaster whenever possible. They use much less energy and won't heat up your house as an oven would.
- Air-dry clothes and dishes rather than using the clothes dryer or dishwasher dry cycle.
- Replace incandescent bulbs, which emit heat, with high-efficiency LED light bulbs.
- Check your home for air leaks. Common areas with cracks or gaps are around windows, doors, electrical outlets, attic hatches and where cables and phone lines pass through walls. For more information, check out the energy.gov website (<https://bit.ly/2OAB6Fe>) for information about detecting air leaks.

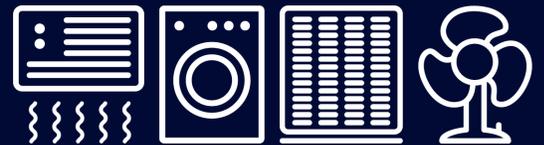
Tips for Using Fans

- Box or ceiling fans use a lot less energy than air conditioners. Use fans when possible, especially during on-peak hours of 2-7 p.m.
- Most ceiling fans have a switch on top that controls the direction of the blade rotation. To check the direction, stand directly underneath the fan and look up. In warmer months, make sure your ceiling fan is turning counter-clockwise so that the blades push cooler air down in a column. In winter, flip the switch so the blades turn clockwise.

SUMMER ON-PEAK ELECTRIC HOURS

On-peak electric hours are 2-7 p.m. (weekdays only), May 1 - Sept. 30. Weekends and major holidays are off-peak. Details: fcgov.com/TOD-info

Off-peak prices are approximately 70% less than on-peak prices. Save money by *shifting* your electric use to the lower-priced, off-peak hours or by *reducing* your use.



Learn what it costs to run your air conditioner, appliances and electronics, and how to save money by taking advantage of lower, off-peak prices at fcgov.com/TOD-Tips.

Throughout the year, most customers use about 80% of their electricity during the lower-priced, off-peak hours.



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What about Air Conditioning?

- Central Air Conditioners
 - Set your thermostat a few degrees higher in the summer months, especially during on-peak hours. The Department of Energy recommends 78 degrees in the summer. In general, every 2 degrees higher you set your air conditioner can save up to 14% on cooling costs.
 - Avoid placing TVs or other appliances near your thermostat. The thermostat can sense the heat, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
 - Change the air filter every three months or more frequently.
- Window Units
 - If possible, close the doors to the room with the air conditioner. This will allow the unit to cool that area more efficiently and it will stay cool for much longer.
 - Keep the vents clean and unobstructed.
 - Seal any gaps around the air conditioner. Weather stripping can help prevent this.
- Pre-cooling your home before 2 p.m. and then turning off the your air conditioner will help you avoid on-peak pricing.

FIND OUT MORE

Do you have central air conditioning and secure Wi-Fi? You may qualify for a Peak Partners free smart thermostat and installation. Find out more at peakpartnersfortcollins.com/overview or by calling 855-350-1464.

Free Utilities Bus Tours



Choose your own Utilities adventure and discover the behind-the-scenes work that goes into providing high-quality drinking water or reliable electricity. Visit fcgov.com/bus-tours for more information and to register.

- Thursday, June 27: Power Trip
- Tuesday, July 9: Watershed Tour
- Tuesday, Aug. 13: Watershed Tour
- Tuesday, Sept. 10: Power Trip

June is National Healthy Homes Month!

Did you know:

- One out of four homes in Fort Collins has a family member with respiratory ailments.
- Americans spend up to 90% of their time indoors and indoor air quality can be up five times worse than outdoor air quality.
- The greatest environmental risk is where we have the greatest control – in our own homes.



The City of Fort Collins' Healthy Homes program offers resources and a free, comprehensive in-home assessment to evaluate your home's indoor air quality. To learn more or schedule an assessment, call 970-416-2832 or visit fcgov.com/healthyhomes

NEED ASSISTANCE? Email utilitiesaffordability@fcgov.com or call 970-416-2032.

Esta información sobre el programa "Income-Qualified Assistance Program", que ofrece una tarifa de luz y agua a descuento, puede ser traducida, sin costo para usted, 970-212-2900.