



# Efficiency Vermont

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Alexandra Tursi  
Kelliher Samets Volk  
802-862-8261 x2856  
[atursi@ksvc.com](mailto:atursi@ksvc.com)

Leigh Winterbottom  
Efficiency Vermont  
802-860-4095 x1116  
[lwinterbottom@veic.org](mailto:lwinterbottom@veic.org)

## REDUCE HOME ENERGY BILLS THIS WINTER WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY

*Efficiency Vermont Offers Tips for Winter Energy Saving*

October 2009 – Burlington, VT – Efficiency Vermont wants to help Vermonters save money and energy this winter. The organization offers the following tips on how Vermonters can lower their energy bills by increasing energy efficiency in the home.

**Turn Down the Thermostat.** If you lower the thermostat as everyone leaves for the day and just before going to bed, you can cut your winter energy bills significantly. You can save two to three percent in energy costs for every degree you lower your thermostat. Lowering the heat from 72° to 65° for eight hours a day can save as much as 10 percent on annual heating costs. Use a programmable thermostat; it will automatically turn the heat down and then have the house warm for you when you need it.

**Fix Drafty Windows and Doors.** Caulk around window frames and use weather stripping and door sweeps on doors. Properly adjusted windowsash locks will ensure that windows are properly shut. Use storm windows or put up interior window plastic, available in kits at hardware stores.

**Keep Cold Out and Warmth In.** First, find and seal places where air can move between the house and the attic and between the basement and outdoors. Use expanding foam to seal larger holes and caulk to seal small gaps. Then, make sure that you have sufficient, well-installed attic insulation.

**Look for the ENERGY STAR® Label.** Whether you're planning to purchase a new heating system or home appliances, don't forget to consider energy efficiency. Products with the ENERGY STAR label are the most energy-efficient models on the market.

**Service Your Furnace and/or Boiler.** Oil-fired systems need annual maintenance. Gas systems and heat pumps typically need a checkup every two years. Spending a little on a new filter will go a long way toward maintaining the efficiency of your furnace and decreasing your energy bills.

**Close Dampers When You're Not Using The Fireplace.** An open fireplace damper pulls warm air (air you've paid to heat) from the house, even when there is no fire. Close dampers after ashes have gone cold.

**Give Radiators and Baseboard Heaters Room to Work.** Vacuum or dust radiators and baseboards often and keep them free and clear of obstructions such as beds, dressers and carpets. Heat needs to circulate to reach other areas of the house, especially with a forced-air system.

**Make Your Home More Efficient.** Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® contractors can perform an energy audit of your home and make recommended improvements, such as air sealing and insulation. Specially trained and certified, these pros can lower your energy costs more than a typical do-it-yourself approach can. Find a contractor and learn about financing options at [www.encyvermont.com/homeperformance](http://www.encyvermont.com/homeperformance).

**Save Electricity.** Replace your incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent bulbs. To find out which bulbs work best where and how much you can save, visit [www.newbulbintown.com](http://www.newbulbintown.com). Home electronics and office equipment use power even when they're off. Plug TVs, VCRs, fax machines,

computers, printers, etc. into a power strip and just turn it off when you're not using the equipment. Or get a new, advanced power strip that automatically shuts off power to any idle equipment you want.

Efficiency Vermont encourages Vermonters to attend *Button Up Vermont's* workshops, available throughout the state. These are designed to teach the fundamentals of how homes lose heat, simple do-it-yourself improvements, significant saving opportunities, and available technical and financial resources. Attendees interested in making home energy efficiency improvements can receive a coupon for \$150 off their energy audit, upon completion of a qualifying Home Performance with ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> home improvement project.

For more information, please visit Efficiency Vermont online at [efficiencyvermont.com](http://efficiencyvermont.com).

*Efficiency Vermont was created by the Vermont Legislature and the Vermont Public Service Board to help all Vermonters reduce energy costs, strengthen the economy and protect Vermont's environment. Efficiency Vermont is currently operated by Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC), an independent organization under contract to the Vermont Public Service Board. VEIC is a Vermont-based nonprofit organization founded in 1986. For more information, contact Efficiency Vermont at 1-888-921-5990 or visit [www.efficiencyvermont.com](http://www.efficiencyvermont.com).*

###