

Call For Action: Energy Costs

Reported by: Jenn Strathman

Email: strathman@nbcactionnews.com

Last Update: 1/21 8:40 pm

Staying warm can cost you big bucks, but it doesn't have to if you re-energize your home. Energy efficiency is getting easier. You can save money with free programs and by making simple changes in your home.

For one retired couple, the sun filling a room in their home keeps the green growing year-round and keeps greenbacks in their wallets.

Related Link:

- [KSHB-TV, Channel 41 Action News](#)

The couple is saving energy with a free programmable thermostat from Kansas City Power & Light. It brings them savings in the winter and summer.

"Anything to save energy," Sue said. "I know I saved a lot of money on energy this summer."



(Justin Sullivan, Getty Images)

Another energy saver is KCP&L's "Cool Homes" program. It gives members an instant rebate up to \$850 for installing a heat pump or new high-efficiency air conditioners with a Cool Homes contractor.

If you're more in the market for a big screen television, you can save there, too.

"It uses more energy than a regular TV, but look for the Energy Star label," a KCP&L spokesman said.

Without an Energy Star label, expect to pay big bucks for that new TV. It's the latest and greatest technology, but it needs lots of energy to power it.

While you can't unplug the TV, you can do that with other electronics.

"There's a lot of plug load with iPods, things plugged in throughout the day," the spokesman said. "They use more electricity that people don't think about."

You can also think about saving when you do your laundry. Do a few loads on the cold water cycle. Tide even has a new product that promises to help clean on the cold setting. The savings add up to around \$65 per year.

Saving on electricity is also as simple as changing your light bulb. New CFL bulbs now come in all shapes and sizes and even work with dimmer switches. And if you buy those bulbs they last a lot longer than traditional bulbs.

CFL bulbs will cost you from \$4 to \$13 apiece. When they do burn out, make sure you recycle them. CFL bulbs have mercury in them and are considered hazardous waste.