

# Conserving Energy In My Home

By: Emma Schneider

How myself ,Emma Schneider and family can save energy. Boy do I love to have fun in my house as well outside. I enjoy playing the computer ,listening to my IPOD ,reading books with my light on at night, as well as watching T.V.. Outside I enjoy playing sports, riding my bike to my friends house ,playing with the hose in the summer ,going to the beach, as well as using my family's boat . Yes I'm an average 5<sup>th</sup> grade girl who likes to have fun like everyone else and use energy.

In the winter I like to stay warm and who doesn't. However we use oil to heat our home so these days we are mindful of cost and how much energy we use. At night we keep the heat down to 66 degree's and during the day if no one is home we keep the heat down as well as not to waste it. When we are at home we put on our sweatshirts. Also insulation as my father says helps conserves hot air in the winter by keeping heat in during the winter as well as keeping the house cool during the summer . My father also insulated around the windows recently to keep the heat in and replaced the weather striping around the doors. Keeping the oil burner cleaned and maintained helps it run more efficiently .When doing laundry we try and use cool water to conserve oil as well.

We try not to waste water in my house as much either . Brushing my teeth for example I don't keep the water on when I brush ,only when I rinse do I turn the water on. I try too to take shorter showers as well .I use warm water instead of hot. Sometimes my parents like to remind me of getting out of the shower by yelling into the bathroom and saying ,“Hey what do you think this is a sauna. “So then I know its time to get out.

My dad went and changed all the light bulbs in the house to compact fluorescent bulbs [CFL'S]. He said they use 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last six to ten times longer. Then main thing he did say was to turn off the lights in the room when it is not in use. I tend to read at night and fall asleep with my light on, yeah you guessed it, that is going to end. [The falling asleep part with the light on.] Oh yeah at Christmas time we used LED lights. They came in so many different colors and used up to 96% less energy and operated at a cooler temperature than standard Christmas lights.

One of the last inexpensive things we now do is not to keep home electronics plugged in when they are not in use. So the coffee maker, blow dryer, microwave, and VCR any many other things are unplugged. Did you know in the average home 75%of electricity used to power home electronics is used while the products are turned off.

My mother is now looking for new kitchen appliances. She really is researching the ENERGY STAR LABELS on everything. Appliances with these lables are at least 20% more efficient than new regular models and 40% more efficient than an older regular models sold in 2001.I never knew you need to research all of this just to buy appliances. My dad has checked our refrigerator and freezer to make sure the seal is tight when they are closed and we don't keep them too freezing cold.

These are just a few easy inexpensive ways to save energy and to make your home more energy efficient. I have learned a lot by doing this essay and just walking around my home. I hope I can save my parents lots of money. Hey maybe they will get me a cell phone. I wonder if they make them with ENERGY STAR LABELS. I bet my mom will find out.

GO Save The Earth, I'm Trying