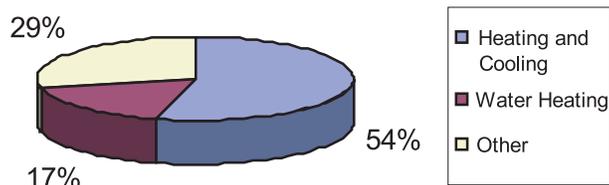


Where does your money go?

To understand how to save money on your electric bill, you must first understand what your biggest energy expenses are.



As you can see from this chart, more than 2/3 of your money goes to heating and cooling and water heating expenses. Therefore, CHELCO offers these recommendations.

Thermostat

Constantly adjusting the thermostat will result in higher energy bills. CHELCO recommends setting your thermostat and leaving it. The recommended settings are 68 degrees during the winter and 78 degrees during the summer.

However, adjusting the thermostat at night by at least 10 degrees (higher in the summer or lower in the winter) for 8-10 hours can help you save between 10-20%. In the winter, reducing the thermostat can help you save between 3-5% for each degree the thermostat is lowered. Consider purchasing a programmable thermostat at a home improvement store to do this for you.

Water heater

Since your water heater is your second biggest expense, you can reduce this cost by verifying your water heater is set at an appropriate temperature. The recommended settings are 120 degrees on the top element and 125 degrees on the bottom element. To prevent heat loss, try using a heater insulation blanket. It can save up to 10% on water heating costs. A water heater timer can also save you money. You simply set it to turn off when you are away from home or sleeping.

Easy Ways to save money

Below are some energy saving suggestions along with the estimated percentage of savings expected when following these tips.

Can help save up to 5%:

- Plug or caulk leaks in attics, fireplaces, and outlets.
- Close blinds and drapes at night while heating.
- Use a clothesline instead of a dryer.
- Seal small leaks in pipes and ducts.
- Can help save up to 10%:
- Use water flow restrictors in showers and faucets.
- Install storm windows.

Can help save up to 15%:

- Perform routine maintenance on heating and cooling system and check ductwork for leaks.
- Use outside and inside shading efficiently.
- Use duct or pipe insulation.
- Use heat reflective and heat absorbing window and door material.
- Add wall insulation where there is none present.
- Use floor insulation.

Can help save up to 20%:

- Turn off the water heater when the home is vacant.
- Add ceiling insulation of an R-value of 11.

Can help save up to 70%:

- Replace central air conditioning with high efficiency equipment.
- Replace electric resistance heat with a heat pump.
- Install a waste heat recovery water heating system.

Other tips:

- Clean and replace the air filter once a month.
- Use dark colored shades/blinds in the winter.
- Use light colored shades/blinds in the summer.
- Caulk and weather-strip all windows and doors.