



# Winter 2024 Seasonal Energy Saving Edition



As the autumn season draws to a close and winter sets in, we can expect colder temperatures, rain, and snow, which can result in higher energy consumption. When you factor in the various holiday gatherings and more time spent cooking as seasons shift, it's no surprise that energy usage tends to rise.

## Seasonal Energy Saving

### Smart Ways to Stay Cozy and Reduce Costs

Whether your goal is to be eco-friendly or reduce utility costs, as your trusted energy partner, we're sharing energy-saving tips to keep in mind this winter season.

Scroll down to continue reading, or [click here](#) to view our seasonal energy saving tips as an infographic!



**Switch to a Smart Thermostat:** When it comes to energy-saving appliances, replacing your outdated thermostat with a smart thermostat is an affordable upgrade that cuts energy waste and costs. According to estimates from the [U.S. Department of Energy](#), properly programming the device and adjusting it to your schedule, preferences, and weather changes can reduce heating and cooling costs by 10%.

**Weatherization:** Avoid unnecessary heat loss by sealing windows and doors to prevent drafts and help optimize energy efficiency by keeping warm and cold air inside. Weather-proofing your home can reduce strain on heating systems, lower energy consumption, and significantly cut winter energy costs. Simple steps like caulking, applying weather stripping, or using insulation can make a big difference.

Weatherization products like door sweeps, foam tape, and window insulation kits are affordable and can be found at your local hardware store or online retailers.

**Heat Only Active Spaces:** Close vents and doors in unused rooms to focus heat on occupied areas. By focusing heating efforts on the rooms you use most, you avoid wasting energy on unoccupied areas, ease strain on your system and help reduce costs without compromising comfort. Plus, you can maximize natural heat by opening blinds and curtains during the day to let in sunlight, especially on south-facing windows. Close them at night to reduce heat loss and retain warmth.

**Be Fridge Smart:** Proper refrigerator use can help optimize energy efficiency and reduce energy costs, even in winter. Simple habits, such as deciding what you need before opening the fridge and keeping the refrigerator organized, both reduce the time the door stays open. Allowing hot food to cool before storing helps prevent overworking the unit and minimize energy waste. Plus, energy-efficient models, as reported by the [Department of Energy](#), like Energy Star-certified refrigerators or top-freezer designs, can further cut energy usage.

**Reverse Ceiling Fans:** While most don't consider ceiling fans helpful during winter, reversing and running the fan clockwise at a low speed helps redistribute warm air that naturally rises to the ceiling. Warm air is gently pushed down into the living space, improving comfort, and reducing the need to overwork your heating system. This simple adjustment can lead to lower energy consumption and cost savings throughout the colder months.

## From the Blog

### Keep Your Home Running Smoothly

Helpful information and articles for every season, at [agwayenergy.com/blog](https://agwayenergy.com/blog)



### Energy-Smart Seasonal Solutions

From optimizing your lighting to managing your thermostat, we're sharing tips to help you through the colder months of the year.

[Explore Energy-Smart Tips](#)

## Winter-Proof Your Energy Bills

Our winter energy saving recommendations can keep your home warm and winter-proof your energy bills to help keep costs down.

[Ways to Cut Winter Energy Costs](#)



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*\* Coverage depends on the commodity purchased*

## Warm Paws, Happy Pets

### How to Keep Your Pets Stay Safe This Winter

Winter can be harsh on our furry friends, especially those who spend time outdoors. Here are some tips to keep your pets safe and comfortable as temperatures drop.



- **Bundle Up:** Like us, pets can be sensitive to low temperatures and may need extra layers to provide warmth and protection against the cold. A coat helps conserve body heat, shield pets from cold winds, snow, or rain, and reduce the risk of illness.
- **Keep an Eye on Paws:** Did you know some road or sidewalk salt can irritate your pet's paws? Protect them by wiping their paws after outdoor walks to remove chemicals and dry any wet fur. This helps prevent discomfort and remove residue that your pet can ingest from licking their paws. Other options include using winter booties or investing in pet-safe sidewalk salt.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Pets need plenty of water, even in winter, to stay hydrated and healthy. If they spend time outdoors, make sure their water bowl doesn't freeze

You can protect your pets by taking a few extra steps while keeping them safe and comfortable throughout the winter. Continue reading our [Tips to Keep Your Pets Warm This Winter](#).



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Agway Energy Services, LLC  
5793 Widewaters Pkwy, Syracuse, NY 13214 United States (Office Address)  
PO Box 4819, Syracuse, NY 13221-4819 (Mailing Address)  
1-888-982-4929

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