

Save Money While Conserving Energy and Water This Summer  
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By the City of Ashland Conservation Department

With summer weather on the way, our hot Southern Oregon temperatures will be in full swing before we know it! During these tough economic and social times there are things you can easily do to help control your energy and water costs. Take advantage of our energy saving tips below and learn about the City's Lawn Replacement Program.

Saving energy can also save you money and help you stay cool this summer. Easy ways to reduce those energy costs include:

- Dress for the weather. Wear lightweight, loose fitting clothing on hot days.
- Drink plenty of cold liquids to stay hydrated.
- Turn off lights and fans in unoccupied rooms.
- Turn off or unplug unnecessary electronics.
- Use your kitchen and bathroom fans after cooking and bathing to remove hot steam from the air.
- Cook more meals in your microwave or InstaPot. It's quicker, more energy efficient, and heats the food instead of your house.
- Run your dishwasher at night, choose to air dry dishes rather than the heat option.
- Dry laundry on a clothesline.
- Wash clothes in cold water, if possible.
- Beat the heat by blocking it. Keep windows, doors, blinds and curtains closed during the day to keep cool air in. Open them when it cools down to let cool breezes through.
- Use portable or ceiling fans instead of A/C. Just increasing air movement can make you feel up to five degrees cooler, while using less energy. Since the fan won't cool the room, be sure to turn it off when you leave the room.
- Install roll-up bamboo blinds outside of windows that receive the most sunlight. Blocking the sun from the *outside* is more effective than blocking it from the *inside*.
- If using A/C set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher.
- Use natural light, if possible.
- Request a free evaluation from City of Ashland, we can help you evaluate your energy efficiency, water use, or solar potential.
- Use Ashland's online home energy audit tool (<http://ashland.eeaudit.com/>).
- Consider installing a heat pump for more efficient home heating and cooling. Incentives through the Conservation Department are available.

Another great way to save money (and water) this summer is the Lawn Replacement Program. If you've been considering replacing your lawn with waterwise landscaping, this may be perfect time to make that change. Lawn replacement rebates are still available for replacing thirsty green lawns that are currently watered using City water. There are many colorful waterwise, firewise, and pollinator plants to choose from. Add some character to your landscape this summer and save water while you're at it. For inspiration on how to create a landscape that is healthy, attractive and uses less water, visit the water wise landscaping website at [www.ashland.saveswater.org](http://www.ashland.saveswater.org).

Most of our Lawn Replacement Program (LRP) participants do save water. In fact, we recently did a

water savings analysis reviewing the last two years of LRP participants' water use. On average they are saving 20,000 gallons (approx. 2,700 cubic feet) of water per year, and many are saving even more. For more information about this rebate program please visit the City's website at [www.ashland.or.us/LRP](http://www.ashland.or.us/LRP).

The City of Ashland offers several additional resources to assist you in managing your landscape and irrigation system including smart controller rebates, a watering calculator, watering guides and irrigation troubleshooting. View the Conservation Division website at [www.ashland.or.us/conserve](http://www.ashland.or.us/conserve) for both water and energy efficiency programs or contact the Conservation department at (541) 488-5306 for more information.