



Independent Plus (Listowel, ON)

Order/Commande

87715

Date 10.03.2006

Circ. 20358 Page: 8

1/1

The Conservation Zone

No cost ways to save energy



BY PETER LOVE,

Chief Energy Conservation Officer
 My role is to ensure conservation and energy efficiency play a vital role in Ontario's ongoing energy strategy. It's cheaper to save energy than to make it, and a big part of today's conservation culture involves "no cost" ways to save energy.
 Imagine the effect if everyone in Ontario put their minds to saving energy

every day using these simple suggestions. I believe it can happen -- together, let's do it.

Let's start with everybody's favourite: no cost.

Top ten ways to save electricity...for free!

1. Only heat or cool the rooms you need. Close off vents and doors of unused rooms.
2. In winter, set your thermostat to the lowest possible comfortable setting. Part of your own personal conservation culture could be to wear an extra layer of clothing, and throw on an extra blanket at night.
3. In winter, let the sun shine in. Open drapes, blinds and curtains on the south side of your house during the day and enjoy some free solar heat. Keep heat in by closing curtains on north windows. Close all drapes and blinds at night.
4. Use the right size pot or pan on the

stove burner, and cover pots and pans while cooking. There is no need to pre-heat your oven except when baking.

5. Microwave ovens use up to 75 per cent less energy than ovens. Try using one whenever possible, especially for one- or two-person meals.

6. For smaller cooking jobs, use smaller appliances, like an electric kettle or toaster oven.

7. Did you know that old fridge in the basement could be costing you \$150 or more per year just to keep a few cans cold? Maybe it's time to give it the cold shoulder -- out the door.

8. Up to 90 per cent of the energy your washing machine uses is to heat the water. Try using cold water for the wash cycle instead of warm or hot. Products designed specifically for cold water are now available.

9. When using your dishwasher, save hot water by skipping the pre-rinse cycle -- just scrape off food and empty liquids first.

Continued on page 12

No cost ways to save energy

Continued from page 8

10. And the brightest idea of all: turn off lights, televisions, etc whenever you leave a room) or don't need them -- even for a few

minutes. It's easy to get into the energy-saving habit!

Remember, if we all do a little, we can save a lot!

The Conservation Bureau develops and delivers programs to help Ontario residents conserve energy and save money. For more information, visit our website at www.powerauthority.on.ca

