



Pelham News (Fonthill, ON)

Order/Commande

82546

Date 22.03.2006

Circ. 8300 Page 6

1 / 1

Put a lid on it! Low cost ways to save energy

By Peter Love

The Conservation Zone

MY ROLE AS Chief Energy Conservation Officer is to ensure conservation and energy efficiency play a vital role in Ontario's ongoing energy strategy.

In my last column, I outlined my favourite no-cost ways to save electricity, things like washing clothes with cold water, and turning off lights and appliances when not in use.

As you know, 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. In this column, I want to outline some of my favourite "low-cost" ways to save electricity.

Peter Love's Top-10 low cost ways to save energy:

1. Check your furnace (or air conditioner) filter regularly, and clean or replace it as needed. Dirty filters raise your energy bill by blocking air flow through your heating (and cooling) systems.

2. Install energy efficient low-flow showerheads and sink aerators to reduce hot water use.

3. Seal and weatherstrip leaky windows and doors to stop warm air from escaping. This helps keep air-conditioned air inside too.

4. Insulate your water tank. The cost of a water tank insulation wrap can be recouped in just a few months.

5. Install pre-slit pipe insulation on the

first 1.5 metres leading away from your hot water tank to save energy and reduce moisture in your basement.

6. Use timers, motion detectors and dimmers (except on compact fluorescent bulbs) to automatically turn indoor/outdoor lighting on and off. Dimmers start at just \$10.

7. Install a programmable thermostat (\$40 and up) to regulate home heating and cooling.

8. Use rugs on cold floors, or wear slippers. If your feet are cold, so is the rest of you!

9. Replace your most-used light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs - they use 75 per cent less energy and last up to ten times longer.

10. If you don't have storm windows, it's easy to install insulating plastic sheeting on the inside of single-pane windows to reduce winter heat loss.

Remember to remove it in Spring, to let the fresh air in!

Imagine the effect if all Ontarians put their minds to saving energy every day using these simple suggestions. I believe it can happen.

Together, let's do it.

The Conservation Bureau develops and delivers programs to help Ontario residents conserve energy and save money. We hope these easy energy-saving ideas will help you better manage your energy use at home. For more information" please visit our website at www.powerauthority.on.ca.