

## Around the House

- 1 Weatherize Your House**  
Properly insulating your home can reduce heating and cooling costs by up to 30%.

- 2 Use a Programmable Thermostat**  
Properly using a programmable thermostat can save energy by 10% and up to \$150 per year.

- 3 Use Compact Fluorescent Lights**  
If every Texas household replaced one light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb, we could reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 897 tons statewide.

- 4 Upgrade Your Home Cooling and Heating System**  
Texans could reduce energy consumption statewide by more than 16 billion kWh if all households replaced their heating and cooling systems with Energy Star HVAC systems.

- 5 Turn Off the Lights**  
By turning off four 60-watt incandescent light bulbs for two hours a day, you can save about \$15 a year.



## In the Kitchen

- 6 Trade Up to Energy Star Appliances**  
An Energy Star dishwasher is about 25% more efficient than a conventional one, saving about 800 gallons of water a year.

- 7 Recycle**  
Recycling and composting all acceptable materials can divert almost 90%—or more than 26 million tons—of all municipal solid waste from Texas landfills each year.



- 8 Collect Your Food Scraps, Oil, and Grease**  
By disposing of food scraps and cooking grease in the trash, you can keep fats, oils, and grease from clogging up pipes or the city's sewer lines.

- 9 Cook Efficiently**  
Texans can help reduce energy use and air emissions by using the right-sized pot for the stove burner, saving about \$36 a year for an electric range, or \$18 a year for a gas range.

- 10 Adjust the Setting on Your Refrigerator**  
Set your refrigerator thermostat between 37 and 40 degrees to save money and energy.

# Do Your Part!

Take Care of Texas in your own home. Follow **25 easy ways** you can save money and the environment, and keep our state beautiful!



## In the Bathroom

- 11 Fix Leaks**  
If every household fixed just one leaky faucet, we could reduce water use in Texas by over 13 billion gallons a year.

- 12 Wash Full Loads with Cold Water**  
Washing full loads of laundry can save an average household over 3,400 gallons of water a year and using cold water can save over \$30 a year.



- 13 Install Low-Flow Showerheads and Faucet Aerators**  
Installing just one low-flow showerhead can reduce water use by 25% to 60% and save you \$145 annually.

- 14 Lower Your Water Heater Thermostat**  
Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees. Each 10-degree reduction to your water-heater thermostat can save you between 3% and 5% in energy costs.

- 15 Invest in a New Low-Flow Toilet**  
Replacing an older toilet with a low-flow toilet can save 9,000 gallons of water a year.



## In the Yard

- 16 Use Native Plants**  
Plants native to Texas aren't only beautiful; they typically require less water and maintenance and fewer pesticides and fertilizers—saving you time and money.

- 17 Try Composting**  
Yard trimmings make up 20% of the waste generated by Texans each year and can be recycled through composting.

- 18 Use an Electric Lawn Mower**  
Using an electric lawn mower can save you 73% in total energy costs.

- 19 Collect and Use Rainwater**  
Collecting rainwater can save 1,300 gallons of water annually. If all Texas households collected rainwater, we could keep more than 10 billion gallons in our aquifers, lakes, and rivers.



- 20 Plant Shade Trees**  
Planting three deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your house and around your air conditioner can save you between \$100 and \$250 in heating and cooling costs a year.

## Out and About

- 21 Maintain Your Vehicle**  
Changing your oil, checking tire pressure, and replacing filters can save you up to 35 cents per gallon of fuel used.

- 22 Recycle Used Motor Oil**  
Two gallons of recycled motor oil can produce enough energy to power the average Texas home for one day, cook 48 meals in a microwave oven, or watch television for 7½ days!

- 23 Buy a "Cleaner" Car**  
Choosing a car that gets 30 mpg versus 20 mpg can save you up to \$663 over one year.

- 24 Drive Less**  
Carpool, use public transit, or simply combine errands. By ride-sharing every day, you can save up to \$3,000 a year on gas, insurance, and wear and tear on the car.

- 25 Drive the Speed Limit**  
You could save about \$2.60 per week just by driving the speed limit.



For more facts and resources visit the Take Care of Texas web site at: [www.takecareoftexas.org](http://www.takecareoftexas.org)

# Take Care of Texas—It's the only one we've got.