

## HOME ENERGY INSPECTION SHEET

### LIGHT BULB INVENTORY

If every American home replaced just one incandescent bulb with an energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulb, it would prevent 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions a year, equivalent to about 800,000 cars. Since a 20-watt CFL produces about as much illumination as a 75-watt incandescent, switching to CFLs is a quick way to lower emissions.

1. Tally the number of bulbs in your house. How many watts would you save if you replaced every 75 W incandescent with a 20 W CFL?

60 Watt Incandescent (and lower)	75 Watt Incandescent (and up)	CFL Bulbs (or regular fluorescent)

### APPLIANCE USE

2. Use the back of this sheet to list the appliances in your home, from TVs to refrigerators. Many of these appliances use “standby” power even when turned off. Unplug unused appliances where possible.

3. For every item, brainstorm with your family one way to reduce the energy used by that appliance every month. Consider the family car the biggest appliance of all: How can you reduce its use?

### RECYCLING MONITOR

Is the right material making it into your recycling bin? It’s easy to get confused about what can go in. Some curbside recycling programs won’t accept plastics with a recycling number of 3, 4 or 6, while other programs won’t take plastic grocery bags.

4. At [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com), enter your ZIP code and the word “plastic” to discover what your curbside service covers, or what can be recycled at nearby facilities. You can also discover the other materials these programs accept. Make a poster reminding family members of what’s recyclable.

### AIR CONDITIONER MANAGEMENT

Heating and cooling are the biggest energy drains in the house. Adjusting temperatures 5 to 8 degrees up in summer (or down in winter) for hours at a time can save significant energy.

5. Adjust the thermostat daily before you leave the house and when you go to sleep at night. Challenge your family to keep it no lower than 78 in summer. When tempted to crank the AC, use floor fans and ceiling fans to help beat the heat.
6. Change the air filter every three months as well. Clogged filters make the system work harder to achieve the same level of cooling. Mark the changing dates on the family calendar.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*