

# 10

things

you might not know  
about



energy  
efficiency

## 1.

Only 10% of the energy used by incandescent bulbs produces light. The rest is given off as heat. Compact fluorescent light bulbs use up to 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs, and last up to 10 times longer.

## 2.

If every household replaced one standard light bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb, the energy saved would power three Empire State Buildings.

## 3.

TVs, stereo, computers, microwave ovens and battery chargers consume as much as 75% of their electricity while they are turned off but in standby mode.

Unplugging these devices saves money and energy.

## 4.

Appliances like refrigerators, dishwashers and air conditioners manufactured before 1993 use up to 50% more energy than today's Energy Star models.

If just 10% of US households retired their old fridges and switched to Energy Star appliances, it would be the equivalent of planting 1.7 million acres of trees.

## 5.

By air-drying your clothes instead of using your electric dryer, you can cut household energy use by 10% while extending the life of your clothing.

## 6.

By washing your clothes in cold water instead of hot, you can save 220 kwh of power and avoid 500 lbs of carbon emissions based on doing just two loads a week.

## 7.

Turning out the light each time you leave a room can save 5–10% of your light energy use.

## 8.

Idling your car engine gets zero miles per gallon. You could travel one mile for the same fuel used during two minutes idling. A good rule of thumb is to turn off your engine if parked for more than 10 seconds.

## 9.

Removing unnecessary items from your car, such as golf clubs, can improve your fuel economy. An extra 100 pounds in your trunk can reduce your MPG by 3%.

## 10.

Buying renewable energy reduces green house gases and encourages innovation. Over half of all US utility companies now offer customers the option of paying a small (often pennies a month) premium to get electricity from clean, renewable sources like solar and wind.