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ENERGY STAR®, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy program, helps us all save money and protect our environment through energy efficient products and practices. For more information, visit www.energystar.gov.

Cool Your World with ENERGY STAR FACT or FICTION?

The average family spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills.

FACT! Nearly half of those dollars go towards heating and cooling. By reducing the amount of electricity used to cool your home, you also reduce greenhouse gas emissions released into the air by power plants burning fossil fuels. So by using less energy, you help reduce the risks of global warming.

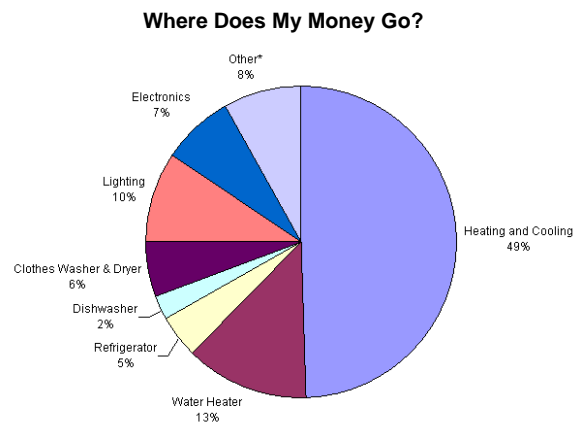
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourages homeowners to cool their homes smartly with energy-efficient choices.

It is hard to save on energy bills.

FICTION! With a few simple steps, such as regular equipment maintenance, use of energy-efficient heating and cooling products, and home sealing, you can stay comfortable and save on your energy bills at the same time.

Individual actions at home can add up to a lot of pollution prevention.

FACT! With the help of ENERGY STAR, consumers can improve your home's energy efficiency, cut energy costs, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



- **The Web can help you save energy. FACT!** The **ENERGY STAR @ home** interactive tool (www.energystar.gov/home) provides energy-efficient home improvement ideas and energy-saving tips and advice for your entire home.
- **A shell is just something found on the beach. FICTION!** The exterior of your home is called the “shell” or “envelope” and is made up of the outer walls, ceiling, windows and floor. Improving your home’s “shell” is the first and most important step you can take to maximize your home’s energy efficiency and to reduce your energy bill. Home sealing reduces uncomfortable drafts and helps avoid moisture problems by sealing holes, cracks, and gaps.
- **Check-ups are only for people. FICTION! Your home’s cooling system needs an annual check-up, too.** As summer approaches, schedule a pre-season checkup with a licensed contractor to ensure your cooling system is operating efficiently and safely. Also, remember to clean or replace air filters regularly.
- **You can save 20% on your energy bills each year. FACT!** If your cooling system is more than 12 years old and needs replacing, consider purchasing a new, energy-efficient system. Depending on where you live, replacing your old heating and cooling equipment with ENERGY STAR qualified equipment, conducting maintenance, and properly sizing and sealing your ducts can cut your energy bill by as much as 20%..
- **Using a programmable thermostat can help save money and energy. FACT!** A programmable thermostat offers the most energy-saving potential for your home, and through proper use, can save up to \$150 in energy costs each year. ENERGY STAR qualified models have four pre-programmed temperature settings for typical weekday and weekend routines – saving energy when no one is home and through the night while you’re sleeping.

You can learn more at the ENERGY STAR Web site. FACT! For further information on how to make your cooling and heating system work more efficiently, visit www.energystar.gov/hvacguide and get EPA’s Guide to Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling.