

Task of the Month



MONROE COUNTY ENERGY CHALLENGE

The **Monroe County Energy Challenge** is our community's entry for a \$5,000,000 Georgetown University Energy Prize. Buildings account for over 47% of U.S. energy consumption, and homes account for about 1/3 of that. So we can make a difference!

What do we need to do to win?

Tap into our imagination and spirit of community to reduce the natural gas and electricity energy used in our homes, schools and municipal buildings by at least 10% per meter. We know we can do this, but where to start? The Task of the Month program encourages us to take one step at a time, both by improving our homes and changing our habits. Acting together will strengthen our sense of community and ensure that we take the most important, effective first steps.

Read through this list of tasks, check off any you've already done, then do a task each month

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Month	Suggested Monthly Task	Estimated Annual Savings*
<input type="checkbox"/> January	Lower thermostat 2°F during the day, 4°F overnight.	\$30-\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> February	Install and use a programmable thermostat.	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> March	Seal large air leaks.	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> April	Replace 7 incandescent bulbs with fluorescent or LED bulbs.	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> May	Have your AC unit professionally serviced; clean refrigerator coils.	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> June	Wash clothes in cold water; air dry clothes.	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> July	Increase AC thermostat by at least 3°F.	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> August	Cut phantom energy loads by half or more.	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> September	Have your furnace professionally serviced; change filters monthly.	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> October	Weatherize windows & doors.	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> November	Insulate water heater & lower water heater temperature to 120°F.	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> December	Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.	\$20

* These tasks were selected from energy-saving actions recommended by the Rocky Mountain Institute and ENERGY STAR, based on their effectiveness (cost, effort and expertise required, and potential for significant energy savings). Please note that the savings listed for each task are estimates based on national averages; individual household results will vary. And not every task is appropriate for every home.



Task of the Month was originally created by Dr. Stephanie Kimball for Earth Care Bloomington an affiliate of Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light



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Saving energy keeps more money in your pocket and reduces our impact on the environment at the same time. These no-cost or low-cost steps will save money on your utilities bills for years to come.

Getting Started

The Task of the Month Program focuses on one action at a time. You can check off any tasks you have already done, but see the posters for tips and more information.

The Energy Challenge will announce each month's task in emails to those who sign up at MoCoEnergyChallenge.org.

Help completing the tasks:

Neighbors: The Council of Neighborhood Associations –CONA– will share information in their meetings; we'll encourage neighbors to help each other stay on track.

Utility Rebates: Task of the Month posters on the Monroe County Energy Challenge website list utility rebates available for many of the tasks, from \$20 off programmable thermostats to up to \$500 toward a professional sealing leaks in duct work or insulating attics.

Home Energy Assessments: Duke Energy customers may request a free [Home Energy House Call](#) to identify opportunities to reduce their energy use and cost. Assessors provide free CFLs, faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.

Leak detection: The Energy Challenge will negotiate reduced-price home assessments with a thermal camera or a blower-door to help homeowners discover leaks and places that lack adequate insulation. Heating & cooling accounts for over 45% of a typical home's energy use.

Tips and Instruction: Watch for periodic information sessions and presentations by experts.

Share your ideas: Our plan is open to suggestions. Send us things you do to save energy!

Help us Celebrate our Community's Achievements!

We'll share the county's progress, quarterly, on our website: MoCoEnergyChallenge.org.

We'll "win" by saving money on fossil fuels, even if we don't win the \$5 million Prize!

