

Task of the Month

For Renters



MONROE COUNTY
ENERGYCHALLENGE

Competing for \$5 million and CHANGE

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 for renters will save money on your utilities bills.* The **Task of the Month** Program focuses on one action at a time, and is promoted county wide.

Read through this list of tasks now, and aim to do one task each month

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Month	Suggested monthly task	Est. cost
<input type="checkbox"/> January	Looking for a place to rent for next year? See <i>the other side</i> for questions to ask before you sign a lease.	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> February	Keep your curtains closed on very cold days.	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> March	Cut phantom energy loads by half or more. Easily shut off your computer and A/V equipment with surge protectors when not in use.	\$15 each
<input type="checkbox"/> April	Share info about your rental on www.RentRocket.org to help future occupants save energy and money.	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> May	Wash clothes in cold water; air dry clothes outside or on racks & hangers indoors.	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> June	Use fans instead of AC if you can. Set AC to 75 or higher when at home, and 78 or higher when away. Ask your landlord to professionally service your AC unit.	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> July	Conserving water saves energy too! Take shorter showers. Report any leaks to your landlord. Don't flush after every use. Ask your landlord about low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.*	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> August	Lower your water heater temperature to 120° F.**	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> September	Make sure your refrigerator isn't set too cold! According to the U.S. FDA the freezer should be 0°F, and the fridge at 40°F. Recycle your 2nd fridge if you have one.	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> October	Replace incandescent light bulbs with CFL or LED bulbs. Duke Energy customers can get up to 92% off at the Duke Savings Store . You can take them to your next rental. And be sure to turn out lights when you leave a room!	50¢ -- \$6 ea
<input type="checkbox"/> November	Keep your thermostat at 68° or lower when home during the day, 65° or lower at night, and ask your landlord if you can set it as low as 55° degrees when away from home.	\$0
<input type="checkbox"/> December	Use caulk, removable rope caulk, plastic sheeting, draft stoppers, and other methods to stop drafts and keep the heat indoors.	\$3 – \$10

*Let your landlord know about *Energy Challenge* bulk purchase options and utility rebates.

**Be sure to check with your landlord or property manager before making changes.

For more information see MoCoEnergyChallenge.org



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



Before You Rent



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Questions to ask the landlord or property manager:

- Do they know about the Monroe County Energy Challenge?
- How is the space heated & cooled? Who pays the electric and (if applicable) natural gas bills?
- What were the heating bills for the past few winters?
 - If the tenant pays utilities, see if you can get that information before they move out.
 - And ask them how warm they kept the space last winter, day and night.
- Is there a programmable thermostat? If so, ask how to use it before you move in.

For apartments:

- Who pays the water bills? Are there low-flow showerhead and faucet aerators?
- Can the tenant control the water heater temperature? Is it OK to change the setting?
 - Ask if the landlord would set it to 120°F before you move in.
 - Ask how to shut off water if there is a problem (like a backed-up toilet running over).
- Is there a recycling program for the building?

For older houses:

Ask to see the basement, crawl space or furnace room:

- Is the house heated by natural gas, electricity or something else?
- Does the furnace have filters?
 - Who is responsible for changing them, if so?
- Who services the HVAC equipment?
 - When was it last serviced?

Ask to see the attic:

- Is the attic insulated?
 - Does the insulation look even?
 - Is it at least a foot thick?
- Is there an attic hatch? If so, are there cobwebs around it? That's a pretty good sign that there is a draft, and it needs to be insulated.
 - A piece of rigid insulation board, cut to fit, is an easy and inexpensive fix.

Windows & doors:

- Do all the windows open and lock? Do they have screens?
- Are there storm windows? If not, ask if you may install plastic window film on them.
- Are there blinds or shades, or hardware for curtains?
 - If not, ask if you can add them.
- Is there a storm door?

Check what City or Campus bus lines run nearby.

- Do they run less on Sundays? In the summer? Do they go places you need to get to regularly?

For more tips, see <http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes/renterschecklist.htm>

Questions? Go to MoCoEnergyChallenge.org, or email us MoCoEnergyChallenge@gmail.com

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