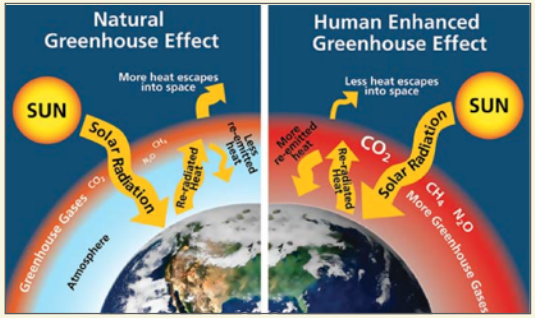
Why is this Important?

Did you Know…

- In developed countries buildings account for **30-40%** of the energy use.
- If we don't reduce energy use, climate change will cause lower crop yields, more extreme weather, rising sea levels, the extinctions of numerous species, increased wildfires, limited freshwater, **and more.**
- Renters are more likely to put a **disportionate** amount of their monthly income towards energy compared with homeowners.
- Landlords can receive higher rent for more energy efficient properties.
- Upgrading your home to be more efficient has numerous **mental and physical health benefits.**

How does Climate Change Work?



Climate change is one of the biggest environmental problems our world is currently facing. Climate change is a result of greenhouse gas emissions being released into the air from human production, which then make it harder for the Earth to cool by trapping energy in the atmosphere and allow for a higher average temperatures.

Want to know how much money and energy you're wasting on old freezers and refrigerators? Check out the EnergyStar Fridge Calculator online! Head to: <https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=refrig.calculator> for more information.

For additional information contact Allegheny College Department of Environmental Science

Energy Efficiency in Your Rental Home





A guide to help renters and landlords in Meadville, Pennsylvania become more energy efficient. By education of measures to take, information about incentives to use, and the idea of "Green Leases", through this brochure tenants and landlords can work together to reduce their carbon footprint

Prepared by: Carolyn Brown



What can YOU do? Low-no cost fixes that actually work!

Making where you live more energy efficient isn't as hard and expensive as you might think… listed below are some changes you can do without the help of your landlord to both reduce your monthly energy bill and help the environment

- Switch to a more **efficient light bulb**. In the lifespan of one lightbulb **this can save $92 and 460 kWh** compared to a typical lightbulb. Imagine all of the money and energy saved if you changed all of the lights in your house?!
- **Turn it off!** When not using an appliance, be sure to turn it off, or even unplug it if possible (especially at night when you're sleeping).
  - Did you know if you unplugged your cable box when not in use **you could save $17.83 a year?** Imagine how much that could add up over the years if you unplugged similar things as well!
- Set your **water heater to 120 degrees** - this can save up to $61 annually.
  - For even more savings turn it off when on vacation
- Wash your clothes with **cold water**
  - Not only can it help maintain the color of your clothes, it can save you **$152 per year!**
- Be informed! Look at your energy bill and see where you're spending the most money, and see what you can do to reduce that

Incentives You Can Take Advantage Of:

- Apply Online at <http://energysavepa-home.com> for the following rebates. *All are on the same website and the application takes roughly 10 minutes to fill out*
- Clothes Washers: $25 rebate
- Clothes Dryers: Up to $50 in rebates
- Refrigerators: Up to $75 in rebates
- Freezer: $25 rebate
- Dehumidifiers: $25 rebate

The above rebates available for PA residential customers of Med-Ed, Penelec, Penn Power and West Penn Power

- **Lighting**: it can add up to 20% to your energy bill- switch to something more efficient!
  - Save 75 cents on CLF bulbs and $5 on LED bulbs, find online at <https://www.firstenergycorp.com/save_energy/save_energy_pennsylvania.html>

- For more rebates go to <https://www.energystar.gov/rebate-finder> and enter in your zip code to apply for 15 current rebates

Green Leases

- **What is it?** The tenant and landlord both decide to lower consumption with more energy efficient appliances. The landlord increases the rent to help cover the upgrade costs while the tenant will save money from reduced energy bills.
- **If I'm a landlord, why should I upfront the money?** Studies show that upgrading a home to be more efficient has greatly increased the property value. Depending on the payment plan, your investment can be paid back in as little as one year! For example…

Landlord replaces a 20 year old refrigerator for $599.00 (with $75 in rebates available!).

The tenant would see a $10.63 decrease in their monthly energy bill

If the landlord increases rent by $9.00 a month, the tenant will save $1.63 per month on total costs, and the landlord will make $556 on their investment over the next 10 years.

In the end everyone benefits! The tenant would continue to save money with a reducing energy bill. The landlord would benefit from an increases property value, and essentially getting a new refrigerator for their property for free.

