

# HOUSEHOLD ENERGY EFFICIENCY

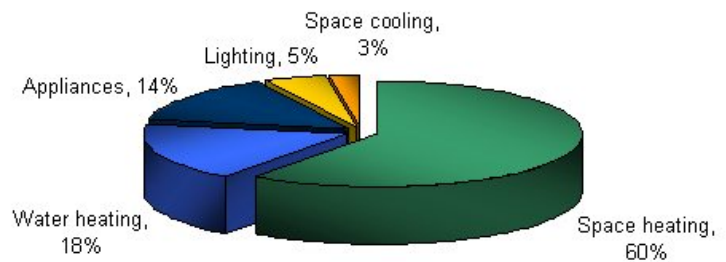
## Introduction

The largest untapped source of energy is the energy we waste. Canadian households use energy mainly for space and water heating followed by appliances, lighting and space cooling.

## Interesting Home Energy Facts

- The international [ENERGY STAR® symbol](#) identifies the most energy-efficient products in their class. Products that carry the ENERGY STAR symbol meet premium levels of energy efficiency – most are 10 to 50 percent more efficient than the minimum regulated standard in Canada.
- The energy used by a family of four produces about 19.5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year or about 5 tonnes per person from household consumption and personal transportation.
- Fans use 90% less energy than air conditioners.
- A quarter of your household energy use is keeping your body, clothes and dishes clean.
- Old windows which have well-sealed storm windows on them reduce heat loss per window by 25% to 50%.
- Energy Star new homes are 40% more efficient than the current building code. They come with Energy Star appliances; better draft proofing and insulation, and more efficient heating, cooling and windows.

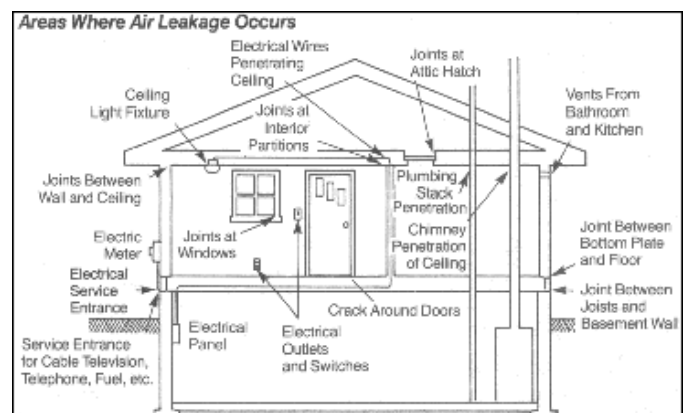
Residential Secondary Energy Use by End-Use, 2005



## What You Can Do

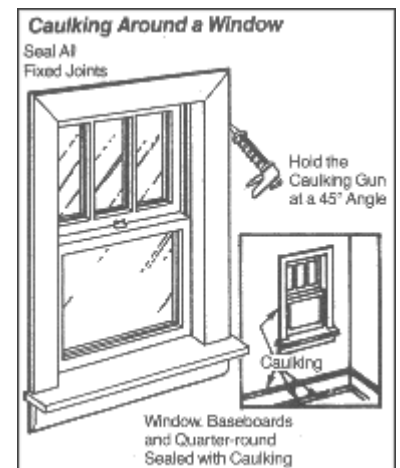
✓ Have an energy audit of your home. Contact us for a list of energy auditors in the Cobourg area. They will assess your home's energy efficiency and show you where your house has leaks. They will put together a plan that shows you what you can do to reduce your energy demand and how long it will take to pay off the investment with energy savings.

✓ Replace your furnace filter every month and have a furnace tune up annually to make sure your



furnace is running at peak efficiency.

- ✓ On your own or if you are renting, take a stick of incense and check the seal around your foundation sill plate, doors, windows and electric plugs on the outside walls. With a caulking gun and a non-toxic caulking material for inside use, seal these cracks and openings off. Have a professional insulate your sill plate.
- ✓ Use window film and a hair dryer to remove drafts on old windows during winter until you can afford investing in new windows.
- ✓ Use removable caulking to seal shut old windows for the winter season. Peel the caulking off in the spring to re-open the window and bring in the cooling night air.
- ✓ If your gas furnace is over 20 years old invest in a new one properly sized for your house. Do your energy audit first to make sure your house is properly insulated and caulked so that you don't oversize your furnace. A new furnace will be 20% to 30% more energy efficient than your old one.
- ✓ Consider geothermal. Geothermal systems can reduce energy consumption by 25% to 75% for serious long-term savings using the heating and cooling ability of the earth. Contact us for more information.
- ✓ Consider renewable energy solar water heating and solar electric systems. Contact us for more information.
- ✓ Use compact fluorescent and LED bulbs bought on sale to replace all the lights in your home except those on a dimmer switch. They use 75% less energy, last several times longer and pay for themselves in electricity savings.
- ✓ Practice conservation as a lifestyle. Teach children not to waste hot water and to turn out lights and practice what you preach.
- ✓ Get informed and purchase energy saving technologies like a programmable thermostat, light sensors, Energy Star appliances and fuel efficient vehicles with fuel consumption ratings of 6.9 liters per 100 kilometers OR LESS.
- ✓ Take time with your family and friends to enjoy bicycling, hiking, strolling, picnics in the park and other pleasures of life that don't use fuels and electricity and at the same time reduce stress, keep us fit and well balanced.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Natural Resources Canada [www.oe.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.oe.nrcan.gc.ca)

An Excellent Household Energy Checklist:

<http://coloradoenergy.org/tips/homeowner>

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