



DECEMBER 2020

## 12 DAYS OF ENERGY SAVINGS

During the holidays, energy usage typically goes up as families decorate with lights and bake treats. To help keep energy usage manageable, the City of Tallahassee offers these tips to help save energy and money.

### 1. REQUEST AN ANALYSIS FROM AN ENERGY AUDITOR.

This in-depth analysis helps you identify your current energy consumption habits and specific energy saving opportunities that can help lower costs. Many of the loan and rebate programs outlined below require an energy audit as a first step.

### 2. INSTALL A SMART THERMOSTAT.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), homes with smart thermostats can save up to \$180 per year on heating and cooling. The City offers a rebate to help offset the cost of purchase and installation.

### 3. ADJUST YOUR HVAC.

Lowering your thermostat by just one degree in the winter can decrease energy usage by three percent.

### 4. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUNLIGHT.

Open curtains on cold days to allow sunlight to naturally warm your home.

### 5. MAINTAIN YOUR FIREPLACE.

Shut the damper when not in use to keep warm air inside.

### 6. PREPARE YOUR HOME'S WINDOWS.

If you're in the market for new windows, consider upgrading to double-pane with low-E glass. The City's Energy-Efficiency Loan Program can help.

### 7. APPLY FOR A CEILING INSULATION GRANT.

The City will cover a portion of the cost to purchase and install quality insulation.

### 8. CONSIDER ENERGY STAR APPLIANCE REBATES.

On average, appliances account for 20 percent of your home's total energy use. The City offers rebates that can help with the cost of these purchases.

### 9. LIGHT UP WITH LED LIGHTING.

LED holiday lights consume 70 percent less energy than incandescent light strands.

### 10. INSTALL A LIGHTING TIMER.

Timers help you stay in the holiday spirit with lower energy consumption.

### 11. UPGRADE TO ADVANCED POWER STRIPS.

Some home electronics go into sleep mode when they're turned off and continue to consume energy. Smart power strips automatically shut off connected devices.

### 12. USE YOUR KITCHEN WISELY.

Bake several dishes at the same time. Your oven will use the same amount of energy.

Through energy-saving programs, the City has provided over \$28 million in incentives to utility customers, equating to nearly 600,000 megawatt-hours in energy savings since 2008. Visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) to learn more.

## MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) for the current list of Tallahassee City Commission, Community Redevelopment Agency, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency meetings and workshops.

Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for more information and view the current meeting agendas online at [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com). Follow @CityofTLH on Twitter for City news.

## Happy Holidays



MAYOR  
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FROM YOUR  
TALLAHASSEE CITY COMMISSION



## WINTER WEATHER TIPS

When a freeze warning is issued for Tallahassee by the National Weather Service, you can take simple steps to help protect your family, your pipes and your pets.

- Insulate all exposed outside pipes with cloth or a similar material.
- Exercise caution when using supplemental heating units. Keep all combustible materials, such as drapes or chairs, at least three feet away from any heating unit.
- Bring outside pets indoors during cold snaps, especially at night when temperatures dip to their lowest.

The City wants to ensure all residents know what to do when the forecast calls for a hard freeze. Customers can call 850-891-4968 for utility service needs.



## SHARE WITH THOSE IN NEED

This time of year is known as “the season of giving.” To aid those who want to help others, the City offers Project Share, an assistance program that allows utility customers to donate funds through their utility bill to other utility customers who are elderly, disabled or who have fallen on unforeseen hard times. Project Share, which has been around since 1986, has helped thousands of customers make their monthly utility payment, keeping them and their families safe and comfortable with essential services like electricity, water and solid waste collection. To donate or apply for Project Share, visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) or call 850-891-4968.



## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season open your heart and home by adopting a homeless pet from Tallahassee Animal Services. Each year, the Animal Service Center (ASC) accepts thousands of animals who are all looking to share their endless love with a forever family. To view animals, including kittens, puppies, cats, dogs and exotic pets, that are currently available for adoption, visit the online kennel at [Talgov.com/Animals](http://Talgov.com/Animals).

You can also help connect missing pets with their owners this season by using the new Lost and Found portal at [Talgov.com/Animals](http://Talgov.com/Animals). This portal allows owners to report missing pets and those who find missing pets to report them found. Through the adoption program and new Lost and Found portal, Tallahassee Animal Services is ensuring that all pets are home for the holidays.

## Sustainability Tip

Find and fix water leaks. Common areas where leaks occur indoors include toilets, sinks and showers.

## RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE



After the holiday season, recycle your live-cut Christmas tree. The easiest way is to place it at the curb on your scheduled yard waste collection day. Please remove all decorations first! Customers are reminded to separate yard waste piles from any bulky items set

out for pickup. There will also be community drop off sites at Tom Brown Park (443 Easterwood Drive), Myers Park (913 Myers Park Drive), San Luis Park (131 San Luis Road) and Jack McLean Park (700 Paul Russell Road) where you can take your Christmas tree to be recycled into mulch for use in City parks for the holidays.