

# Understanding and Managing Your Utility Bill

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## Seasonal Changes Can Cause Higher Bills

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## Major Energy Users in Your Home

- Home heating
- Cooling (air conditioning)
- Water heating
- Refrigerators, clothes dryers, and other appliances



## Planning Ahead to Lower Your Bills

Investing in energy-efficient upgrades like insulation, duct sealing, and a heat pump water heater can help reduce your bills over time. While these upgrades require upfront costs, they can lead to long-term savings and improved home comfort. Rebates, tax incentives, and payment assistance may be available.



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# Tips for Reducing Energy Use

## ADDRESS COMMON AREAS OF HIGH ENERGY USE

If you compare your current bill to a previous bill from a period of similar weather, did you use more electricity (KWh)? Be sure to look at the energy use as well as the cost.

If there was an increase in energy use, identifying the reason and implementing some of the quick fixes below can help. Note that bills are for past usage and electricity use increases during colder weather. Some bills also include more days than others.



### HEATING

- Replace dirty furnace filters.
- Use space heaters sparingly and only in occupied rooms.
- Set your thermostat to 68° F in winter and 78° F in summer.
- Let the sunshine in. Open or close your blinds depending on the season.
- Replace incandescent and CFL lighting with LEDs.
- Seal common air leaks around windows, doors, and plumbing fixtures to prevent warm air from escaping.



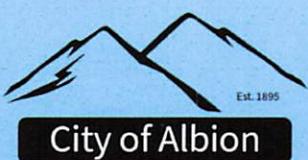
### COOLING

- Use window AC units only in rooms you use most, ensuring the unit fits snugly to avoid air leaks. Close doors to unused spaces.
- Use fans to circulate cooled air more effectively and reduce reliance on the AC unit.



### WATER HEATING

- Take short showers instead of baths. Install high-pressure/low-flow shower heads.
- Wash laundry on cold.
- Check for water leaks.



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