No & Low Cost Energy Saving Tips for Renters and Owners

Since 1970, the average amount of days above 90°F in Miami-Dade County have increased from 84 to 133 days. These continuously high temperature days can put a huge burden on your energy usage and your wallet. Here are no & low cost energy saving tips you can do all year round.

Set Your Thermostat and Water Heater Strategically

Set your thermostat between 78 and 82°F. Raise it by 2 or 3°F when you're not at home, and never turn it off completely as that can cause mold growth. For increased cooling, **use a fan** -- but make sure to turn it off when leaving -- or **close your curtains and blinds**. **Turn the temperature on the water heater to 115°F.**

Install Energy Efficient Light Bulbs

When your older bulbs burn out, **choose to install energy saving LED bulbs**. LEDs are initially more expensive, but they last longer and could save you $75 per year

Cut Unnecessary Phantom Energy Usage

Oftentimes we use energy that we don't need. Save energy by **unplugging electronics when they are not in use**, or use a "smart" power strip to cut "vampire" energy use.

Watch the Way you Wash Your Clothes

If you can, **wash your clothes in cold water and/or dry your clothes on a drying rack**. As much as 85 percent of the energy used to machine-wash clothes goes to heating the water. If you don't have time to dry manually, **make sure the lint in your dryer is cleaned out.**

Energy Saving Tips for Homeowners

Since 1970, the average amount of days above 90°F in Miami-Dade County have increased from 84 to 133 days. These continuously high temperature days can put a huge burden on your energy usage and your wallet. Find out ways to prepare your home for heat season below!

Get Your Cooling System Inspected

In order to make sure your home can effectively cool itself, **have your cooling system inspected by a licensed professional twice a year** (spring and fall). Also, **check that your attic has good insulation**. A well insulated attic can reduce the load on your A/C by 20%.
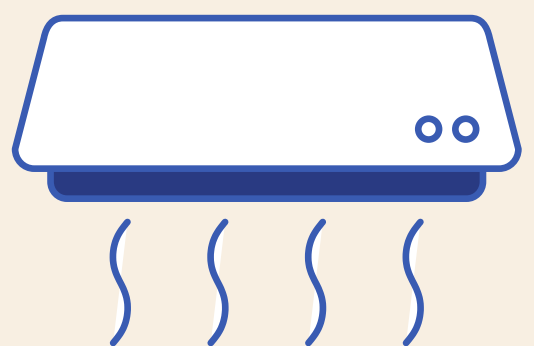
Reflect Light Away From Your Home

You can cool your home by reflecting light away from it. Less light can reduce your energy burden and save your wallet. You can protect the outside of your home by **installing awnings, exterior shades, or painting your roof white**. On the inside of your home you can **install solar screens, opaque/white blinds, roller shades, or curtains.**

Plant Native Trees in Your Yard

Plant native shade trees on the east, west and south sides of your house. Mature trees can reduce air conditioning costs by 30%. Also, pay special attention to the A/C compressor outside. Shading the outdoor part of the A/C can lower cooling costs
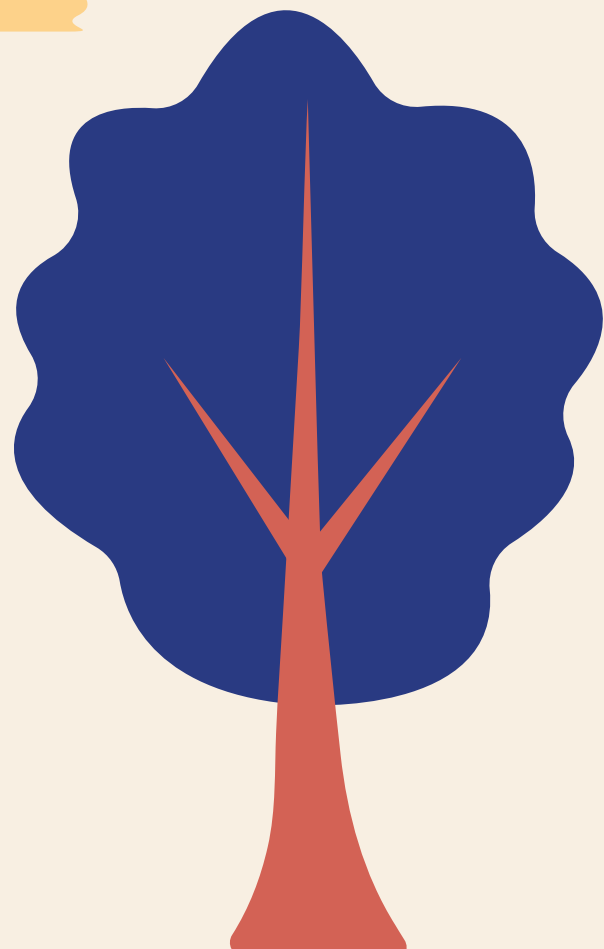
What You Can Do to Prepare Your Home for Heat Season

In the Miami metropolitan area, low income households have an energy burden 3.5 times higher than the median. Here's what you can do.

Evaluate Your Home

Is your home ready for heat season? Make sure your home can **efficiently cool your living space**. Without air conditioning people are more at risk for heat related illnesses and death.

Assess Your Options

Air conditioning is expensive. **Miami-Dade County can help**. The county has a number options to help you decrease your energy burden and provide energy assistance.

Option 1: Low Income Energy Assistance

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) **provides crisis energy assistance** of up to $5,000 to qualified residents.

Option 2: Weatherization Assistance Program

The Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) **assists low income families make their homes more energy efficient**. An energy efficient home reduces the cost of expensive energy bills.

Option 3: Solar and Energy Loan Fund

The Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF) provides home improvement loans for everyone. SELF helps underserved communities **access affordable financing for home improvements** focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate resilience.

Plant More Trees

One way to reduce your home's energy expenditure is to cool the area surrounding it. **Planting trees** native to South Florida and maintaining them **can decrease the air temperature surrounding your home**. Cooler air relieves some of the stress put on your air conditioning unit **which saves you money**.

Option 1: Adopt-a-Tree

Adopt-a-Tree provides up to **two free trees every year** for single-family and duplex homeowners.