



Tools and Tips for Energy Saving Events

What is an Energy Saving Event? The purpose of an Energy Saving Event is to incentivize Sonoma Clean Power customers to reduce stress on the grid by reducing electricity use. The following tips and tricks can be used at home to reduce energy and earn rewards without the need to purchase equipment. For every kilowatt-hour (kWh) saved during an Energy Saving Event, participating customer will earn a \$2 reward.

What is a kilowatt-hour? A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a way to measure how much energy you are using over time. It refers to how many kilowatts are used over the course of one hour. Your utility bill is, in part, based on by how many kilowatt hours (kWh) used in the billing cycle.

Examples of 1 kWh =

1 dishwasher cycle

1 hour of using the microwave

30 minutes of using an oven (with a 2,000-Watt oven)

17 minutes of air conditioning (with a 3,500-Watt air conditioner)

33 minutes of using a hair dryer (with an 1,800-Watt hair dryer)

Check out the Do-It-Yourself Energy and Water Savings Toolkit at a local library

The Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Home Energy and Water Savings Toolkit Guidebook provides simple steps to help you take charge of your home's energy and water use to reduce your utility bills. Check out a toolkit from your local [Sonoma](#) or [Mendocino](#) County Library branch (*not available at Forestville or Occidental branches*).

Close your curtains or blinds

Installing window coverings will keep the heat out and can help reduce cooling costs. Open windows at night when it's cooler, then close them along with your blinds or curtains in the morning to keep cool air inside all day and to prevent the sun from warming your home.

Keep cool with a fan

While the temperature won't change, you will feel cooler with the breeze. If you leave the room, remember to turn the fan off to save even more energy.

If you have air conditioning, pre-cool your home

Set your air conditioning to cool your home to temperatures of 68-74 degrees before 4pm. At 4pm, turn off your air conditioning unit or set to 78 degrees. You will be able to stay cool while saving electricity when it is most expensive.

If you have air conditioning, turn it off or set it to 78 degrees

Your air conditioner is one of the biggest energy users. By turning it off or raising the temperature, you can save a lot of energy!

If you have air conditioning, install a smart thermostat

Smart thermostats automatically adjust your home's heating and cooling based on your daily behavior. Smart thermostats can save energy by maintaining recommended temperatures.

Avoid using the stove or oven

Try grilling outside or use smaller appliances such as a microwave, electric pressure cooker, or toaster oven, which release less heat in your home and require less energy than a stove or oven.

Skip the laundry

Major appliances, such as your washer and dryer use large amounts of energy to run. Do laundry before or after an Energy Saving Event.

Delay doing the dishes

Press the pause button on doing the dishes until after the Energy Saving Event ends.

Use a smart power strip to easily turn off electronics

Many devices draw power even when they are turned off. Instead of crawling around to unplug the devices, you can use a smart power strip. Smart power strips will turn off power with the flip of the switch.

Switch to LEDs and turn off extra lights

You can save energy by switching to energy-efficient lighting. LEDs use roughly 10% of the energy of an incandescent lightbulb and last 25 times longer! Last but not least, don't forget to turn lights off when you leave a room.

What to do during an Energy Saving Event

Get outside. If it's not too hot, get out into nature. Go for a walk or grab some ice cream. Ride a bike. Pack a picnic and head to the park. Run an errand to avoid using energy at home

Relax at home. Play a board game. Read a book. Listen to music on a wireless speaker. Charge up your laptop before an energy saving event and catch up on your favorite shows or stream a yoga class. Pre-cook meals the night before or during the hours before the event.