



Is your home ready to save this winter?

Right now is the time to prepare for the cold weather heading our way this winter. But before you run to the home improvement store, walk around your home and take inventory of what needs to be done. Here's a checklist, including money savings stats, to get you started.



HOME SAVINGS CHECKLIST

CLEANING

- Vacuum under and behind your freezer and refrigerator to improve the efficiency of the unit.
- Have the chimney cleaned and checked by a professional.

WINDOWS & DOORS

- Replace broken locks and latches.
- Caulk around frames.
- Reseal cracked or missing putty around windowpanes.
- Make sure all windows open and shut properly.
- Fill any gaps around pipes and wires that go through exterior walls.

• A few tubes of caulk and rolls of weather-stripping can reduce heating bills 20 percent.

• Enjoy 10 percent energy savings through energy efficient windows.

AIR SEALING & INSULATION

- Make sure attic insulation is rated at least R30; walls should be rated R11.
- Consider insulating basement walls.
- Insulate crawl spaces.
- Insulate pipes and ducts that run through unheated areas.
- Check into blown-in wall insulation if your house was built before 1950.

• Upgrading your attic insulation from 3" to 12" can cut heating costs up to 25 percent.

• Poorly sealed and insulated ductwork can lose up to 60 percent of heated air before it reaches the vents.



HEATING & VENTILATION

- Clear all vents of any obstructions.
- Test your furnace before the weather gets cold.
- Have your heating system checked by a professional.
- Consider replacing your heating system if it is older than 15 years.
- Replace furnace filters regularly.

• Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted can save up to five percent of heating costs.

• For each 1 percent improvement on the Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) of a new furnace, you can expect a 1 percent reduction on heating expenses.

• Homeowners can save about \$180 a year by properly setting their programmable thermostats and maintaining those settings.



SAFETY

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm near heating appliances and on every floor of your home.
- Never operate a vehicle or other fuel-burning equipment in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Do not use your gas range or oven for heat.
- Make sure your clothes dryer is properly vented and free of lint.
- Crack a window one to two inches to allow fresh air into the room when using a fireplace.

CASH IN ON REBATES

Use our rebates to offset some of your efficiency upgrade expenses.

We work with the Governor's Energy Office to offer a number of different rebates.

All rebates are offered on a first come, first serve basis until funds are exhausted.

Be sure to review the details of a particular rebate before you make a purchase.

CFL EXCHANGE

Let us help you replace your incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), which use 75 percent less energy and last about 10 times longer.

Electric customers can exchange up to 12 (total) 60W, 75W and 100W bulbs for a CFL equivalent.

Bring your bulbs, along with a copy of your bill, to the Conservation & Environmental Center (2855 Mesa Road) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to claim your free CFLs.



Beware the phantom

A phantom electric load is the energy used by electronic items, such as TVs and computers, even when they're turned off or in standby mode.

Some devices use as much as 50 percent of their "on" power even when you think they're off.

How can you reduce your phantom load? Here are a few easy



- ways.
1. Unplug chargers when you're not actually charging something.
 2. Use a "smart" power strip to turn things off.
 3. Turn off your computer's monitor when you shut down - it can use twice as much energy as the computer.



Investing in safe, reliable utility service

When it comes to your utility service, we put safety and reliability first. This means investing in critical improvements and complying with regulatory mandates, while keeping rates as low as possible.

Capital improvements, together with fuel - coal, natural gas and purchased power - account for 63 percent of our proposed 2012 annual budget. Key projects include:

Reliable water services

Construction of the Southern Delivery System is essential to meet the needs our growing community through 2040-2050. It's also necessary to back up our aging water pipeline from the western slope, allowing us to take some parts of our system offline for maintenance and repairs.

Also, improvements must be made to several high-mountain reservoirs, including Montgomery and Homestake dams.

Clean air regulations

Like other utilities, we're subject to strict environmental rules. Adding more renewable energy to our power mix and encouraging everyone to use electricity efficiently helps.

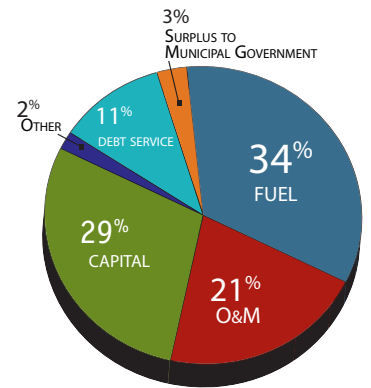
We've also teamed up with a local company to test and install cutting-edge emissions control technology at our downtown Martin Drake Power Plant.

The new technology will enable us to meet new air standards at about half the cost of conventional equipment.

System maintenance

The design, construction and operation of our pipelines consistently meet and often exceed state and federal requirements. Each year, we allocate funds for ongoing inspection and maintenance to ensure the safety and reliability of our systems.

Proposed 2012 budget

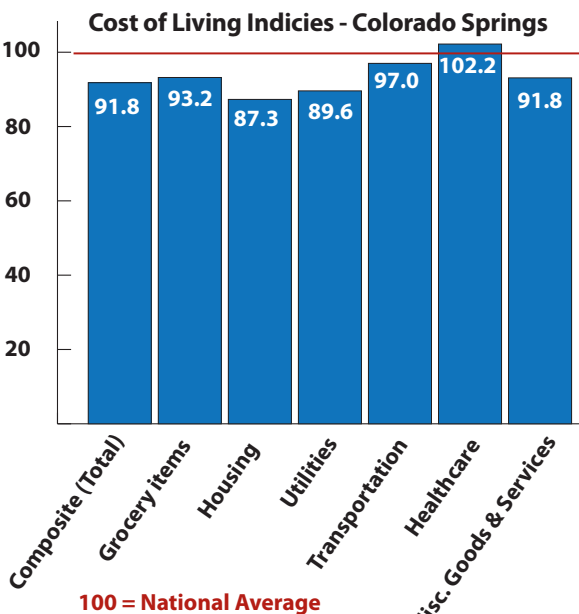


- **Fuel:** Natural gas & fuel to produce energy
- **O&M:** Materials, equipment and labor to provide services
- **Capital:** Funds for infrastructure improvements
- **Other:** Rebates, franchise fees, additions to bond funds, etc.
- **Debt service:** Bond and interest payments
- **Surplus to Municipal Government:** Payments in lieu of taxes

Affordable living

Colorado Springs continues to be an affordable place to live, thanks in part to low utility bills.

The overall cost of living in our city is 8.2 percent below the national average. Our employees work hard to keep costs down and run utility systems as efficiently as possible. Our bills are 10.4 percent below the national average.



Source: Second Quarter 2011 ACCRA Cost of Living Index, a survey of more than 300 urban areas in the U.S.

CO alarms save lives



Defend against carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning by installing alarms near every separate sleeping area of your home.

It's also important to have a qualified contractor annually inspect your furnace, other fuel-burning appliances and venting systems.

Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas produced by incomplete burning of various fuels, including wood, coal, natural gas, oil, charcoal, kerosene and propane.

Because CO is odorless, colorless and tasteless, people may not know when they are exposed.

Moderate symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu. More severe exposure may result in mental confusion or loss of consciousness. If you suspect CO poisoning, call 911 from a neighbor's home and seek immediate medical attention.

CO alarms alert you when life-threatening levels of CO are present in your home. Hard-wired and plug-in alarms should have battery backup. Remember to replace the batteries regularly, too.

CO poisoning can occur year round, but more often in the winter when furnaces, fireplaces and portable heaters are used and windows are closed. Visit csu.org to learn more about preventing CO poisoning.