



# TOP TEN ACTIONS

For more information, please visit our website at [www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org](http://www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org)  
You can also call us at (410) 927-6088 or e-mail us at [info@baltimoreenergychallenge.org](mailto:info@baltimoreenergychallenge.org)

- 1**  **Switch to Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)**  
CFLs use so much less electricity they pay for themselves in under 6 months. Get free ones from the BGE Quick Home Energy Check-Up or buy them yourself! Always remember to turn lights off when you leave a room!
- 2**  **Use Your Thermostat Wisely and/or Install a Programmable Thermostat**  
Set your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer. Using these recommended settings saves you money! Unlike a person, a programmable thermostat won't forget change your thermostat settings while you're away or sleeping. You could save \$200 a year by installing and using one!
- 3**  **Wrap and Turn Temperature Down on Hot Water Heater**  
Buy an insulating jacket for your hot water heater, and turn the temperature down to 120 degrees. If yours is electric, the Quick Check-Up will wrap it for free!
- 4**  **Get Low-Flow Showerheads**  
Low-flow showerheads have all the comfort of normal showerheads, but use less than half the hot water, saving you money every day. Free with the Check-Up!
- 5**  **Turn Stuff Off and Use Powerstrips to Do It!**  
Many devices in your home draw power when you're not using them and even when they're off, like TVs and cell phone chargers. Turn everything off, and hit the powerstrip to do it!
- 6**  **Wash Laundry Using Cold Water and Line Dry Your Clothes**  
Using cold water to wash your laundry can save up to 90% of your energy costs per load. That is \$200 a year in savings! Clothes dryers are one of the largest users of household energy, up to 12% of your monthly energy bill. Consider using a space saving retractable clothesline!
- 7**  **Increase Refrigerator Efficiency**  
Cleaning your refrigerator coils every 6 months will improve efficiency and reduce energy usage. Or, consider replacing an older refrigerator with an Energy Star model which could save you \$500-\$1000 over 5 years!
- 8**  **Maintain Your Heating System**  
Space heating accounts for a whopping 31% of your yearly bill. Having your system regularly serviced, replacing furnace filters, utilizing reflective radiator panels and keeping vents, radiators and baseboard units unobstructed are all ways that you can save on your heating costs.
- 9**  **Insulate and Air Seal Your Home**  
Most Baltimore homes leak air and heat. You can do basic weatherization yourself with tools from a hardware store, or a professional can do an even better job!
- 10**  **Educate Your Family Members and Neighbors**  
It's no use turning the thermostat down if someone else immediately turns it up. Teach your family how to save money and energy! Next, teach your neighbors!



# TOP TEN RESOURCES

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- 1**  **Quick Home Energy Check-Up**  
Offered for free by BGE, this service will give you free CFLs and other upgrades, as well as home energy advice. Schedule your visit today by calling 1-877-685-7377.
- 2**  **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**  
For income-qualifying residents, WAP may be able to make your home more energy efficient with a variety of upgrades, all for free. Call 311 for more details.
- 3**  **BGE Limited Income Energy Efficiency Program**  
If you qualify for other energy assistance programs, you may be eligible for a range of free home energy improvements. Call 1-877-685-7377.
- 4**  **Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning**  
The Coalition provides home health information and for qualifying residents, free home health services to keep children safe. Call 1-800-370-LEAD.
- 5**  **Energy Assistance**  
Depending on your income, you may qualify for assistance paying your utility bills. For info on eligibility and how to apply, call 410-396-5555 or 311.
- 6**  **BGE Peak Rewards**  
Help BGE reduce peak energy usage and get a credit on your bill. Eligibility: if you have central AC or an electric heat pump. 1-800-309-7325.
- 7**  **Tax Credits**  
Save money on efficient appliances and other home improvements! Go to the resources section of the BNEC marketplace at [www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org](http://www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org).
- 8**  **Energy Retrofit Contractors**  
From insulation to solar panels, they'll help you do it all. Find a contractor at the BNEC Marketplace at [www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org](http://www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org).
- 9**  **Home Energy Audits**  
Get a comprehensive analysis of your home, with detailed recommendations for improvements. Go to the Marketplace at [www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org](http://www.baltimoreenergychallenge.org).
- 10**  **BGE Rebates**  
Save serious money on energy efficient appliances, duct sealing, and more! Go to <http://www.bgesmartenergy.com/residential.html> to learn more.