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Save Money By Taking These Home Energy Saving Steps

It's finally March, and it has been a very difficult winter for families across Townsend and throughout the region. It's hard enough to keep driveways clear and ice dams at bay, but we're also dealing with higher energy costs because of the sub-zero temperatures. Being able to pay those bills and stay warm can be an ongoing challenge for many.

Here are some simple steps you can take at home to help keep those costs down.

1. Check for drafts around windows and doors and install caulking and weather stripping. Even if you did this at the start of winter, it's worth going back to ensure repairs aren't needed.
2. Clear heat vents. If you have a chair or sofa blocking your heat vent, it may be worth rearranging furniture to allow the heat into the room more efficiently.
3. Install programmable thermostats. This can save you 5%-15% a year on your heating bills.
4. Close the damper on your fireplace once all the embers are safely out.
5. Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees.
6. Use low-flow showerheads to help use less hot water.
7. Wash your clothes in cold water.
8. Open window treatments and shades during the day to let the sun in, especially in south facing windows, and close the shades again once the sun goes down.
9. Check and change your heating system filters regularly to make sure there is no dirt buildup that can block hot air from making it into your living spaces.

If your family is struggling to pay your heating related bills this winter, there are resources available for you:

- [MassResource - Energy & Utility Assistance Programs in Massachusetts](#)
- [MA Housing and Economic Development Housing Energy Programs](#)
- [United Way of North Central Massachusetts Heating Assistance Program Information](#)
- [Unitil Energy Assistance Programs for Residents](#)