

Currents

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A SMARTER HOME IS A CONVENIENT ENERGY SAVER



Smart home technology automates daily tasks and can improve energy efficiency, giving you extra free time and reducing energy waste. But you don't need to be a technology pro to boost your home's IQ. Getting started is easy and you can scale up at your own pace and comfort level. Here are some easy ways to integrate smart technology at home:

Smart thermostats are a simple way to automate energy savings. They can learn your daily routines and adjust heating and cooling systems accordingly. This targeted usage prevents the heat or air conditioning from running all day, reducing energy consumption and lowering costs. Customers with electrically heated homes may be eligible to receive a smart thermostat for free or steeply discounted through Clark Public Utilities' online marketplace at clark.gpfulfillment.com.

Smart lighting systems can be controlled remotely or set on timers, ensuring lights are turned off when not needed. Some systems even have motion sensors, automatically switching off when a room is unoccupied.

Smart plugs allow owners to monitor and control energy usage for individual appliances. With a smartphone or virtual assistant like Amazon's Alexa or Apple's Siri, homeowners can turn off devices like TVs or computers that are often left on standby, saving power. Plus, they can be scheduled to give the illusion that people are home, even when they're not.

There are many ways to get started — a quick internet search can help you learn the basics, and many home improvement stores also offer guidance.

LIGHT LINES

SURGE PROTECTORS ARE STORM SEASON SAFEGUARDS



Storm season is here, proactively protect your sensitive electronics with surge protectors. Surge protectors help prevent damage by sudden voltage spikes when power is restored after an outage.

That can be especially important for sensitive electronics like computers and TVs. Power strips are similar, but they don't offer surge protection, so shop carefully. Also, avoid plugging too many devices into a single surge protector to prevent potential electrical hazards.



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BAKE IN BIG SAVINGS WITH SMALL APPLIANCES



If the holidays have your kitchen appliances working overtime, think small to save energy on your culinary creations. Whether you're making an appetizer for a potluck or pie for dessert, appliances like air fryers, convection ovens, crockpots, microwaves and even kettles can help reduce energy waste, and sometimes shorten cooking times.

For instance, a larger toaster oven is around 1,200 watts, while a standard electric oven may be around 4,500. If that toaster oven is used for 1 hour to bake your favorite dish, it'll cost just about 10 cents. Do that every day for a month and it'll cost just about \$3. The same meal cooked in a conventional oven will be about 40 cents for the hour, or about \$11 a month, if used daily.

Not only will the smaller oven save energy, but it'll require less time to preheat to the desired temperature.

For savory soups, tender cutlets and hearty dips, skip the oven and look to the crockpot. Typically rated for between 180 and 400 watts, they'll use just a fraction of the power of a conventional oven. When it's time to clean up, put the dishwasher to work. Dishwashers use much less water and less energy than washing by hand. An Energy Star dishwasher can use as little as three gallons per load. Plus, newer dishwashers have efficient heaters built in to keep the water hot instead of continually drawing from your hot water tank.

The more often you choose smaller appliances over the oven, the more energy you'll save and the lower your kitchen-related energy expenses can be. And that's a reason for some holiday cheer.

FUEL MIX



Hydro	48.03%	Wind	5.3%
Natural Gas	28.61%	Market*	11.89%
Nuclear	6.17%		

* "Market" is a mix of wholesale market purchases from unspecified generation sources.
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"Highest for Residential Customer Satisfaction among Midsize Electric Utilities in the West, 16 Years in a Row"

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