***10 Super-Easy Ways to Reduce Your AC Costs***

Apart from the bonfires, barbecues, festivals, and whatnot, the familiar cold & conditioned air during the summer months is an absolute must! It is that one thing that makes our days that much more comfortable. But as with all good things, there comes a downside. Continuous air conditioning usage contributes significantly to the monthly household electricity bills. According to a [US Energy Information Administration (EIA) publication](https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=36692), air conditioning accounts for about 17% of home electricity expenditures, with the figure rising to 27% for humid regions. It is very important to monitor your air conditioner cost at the start of the season.

Clearly, no one wants to spend $500+ monthly on air conditioning. It is in our best interests to reduce air conditioner electricity costs to a minimum without sacrificing comfort and convenience. Seems hard? We’ll make it a piece of cake with 14 super easy ways!

Reducing air conditioning bills doesn’t only help save monthly costs but also reduces harmful greenhouse emissions. With global warming reaching its peak, it’s about time we all adopt an eco-friendlier lifestyle.

Without further ado, let’s look into how you can, very easily, reduce your air conditioner electricity costs.

**1. Give Your Windows a New Lease of Life**

If your home has old windows, they probably are not that energy efficient. You can reduce the costs of cooling your homes by investing in new energy-efficient windows. Some initial investment will be required upfront; however, the savings they will bring will more than make up for it in the long-term.

Newer windows have an energy-efficient coating that will minimize the infrared and ultraviolet light that passes through the glass and into the home. This coating helps in both the winters and summers. During winter, these windows retain the indoor heat and not let it escape. On the other hand, during the warmer months, the windows reflect the heat away, thus preventing the rooms from heating up. This significantly reduces the burden on your air conditioning, meaning lower electric bills!

**2. Seal Your Windows for Air Leaks**

Badly sealed windows leak air. This means that the precious air that was just cooled leaves the room and allows cold air to enter. Your air conditioning unit will have to work much harder to cool your room and maintain the required temperature continuously. Sealing leaks or crevices prevents the cold air from seeping out of your windows, reducing the need to use the AC – thus saving energy!

Before you begin to caulk and seal all of the leaks and cracks in your homes, the first step is to locate the house’s openings. Below are some of the most common sources of leaks and gaps:

Plumbing and utility access

Attic entrances

Behind knee walls

Dropped ceilings

Door and window frames

Air ducts

Outlets and switches

Water and furnace flues

Check as many areas as you can, and capture each and every gap!

**3. Open the Windows for Night-Time Ventilation**

There is an effortless and free of cost cooling technique – cross ventilation. Opening a couple of windows in a house or just one room helps circulate fresh air. This brings in cooler air from outdoors to replace the warmer indoor air during the night. Fans can help speed up this process.

This is particularly advantageous for those households that reside in more northern, colder regions of the country.

Note – do not leave the AC on at night if you open the windows. Leaving the windows open places stress on the air conditioner, resulting in additional air conditioner usage and increased utility bills. You can switch your AC off and open the windows if the temperature allows.

**4. Install a Programmable Thermostat or Deploy Smart Technology**

Smart technology deploys smart features that can significantly help save energy! For instance[, smart air conditioners](https://www.cielowigle.com/blog/smart-ac-benefits-and-features/) or smart thermostats allow you to set schedules for your AC or set intelligent triggers that help maintain a room’s climate. As soon as the desired temperature is received, your AC switches off, which helps save a lot.

Many people don’t bother to adjust their thermostat in hot weather. They crank it to the minimum possible temperature and leave it running there all day long. According to the Department of Energy, US households can [save 10% annually by adjusting the room temperature by 7 to 10 degrees for eight hours of the day.](https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/thermostats)

A programmable thermostat can do this slight readjustment on its own. When you are away, it can sense, increase the set temperature by a few degrees, or completely turn the air conditioner off. Moreover, you can set up a schedule so that the air conditioner increases the set temperature by a few degrees when you are asleep and lower it back down again when you are about to wake up.

**5. Use Ceiling and Portable Fans**

Ceiling fans circulate fresh air, taking some of the burdens from your air conditioning units. Using existing ceiling fans (or installing them throughout the home) is a surefire way to increase a home’s energy efficiency.

Ceiling fans may be considered low-tech; however, they work miracles to keep rooms cool. A ceiling fan not only reduces a house’s air conditioning needs, but it [also saves up to 40% in electricity costs.](https://www.moneycrashers.com/save-home-air-conditioning-energy-costs-summer/)

Portable fans are a suitable option too. They can be strategically positioned around the house or a room and placed near the windows or doors and keep the room well ventilated.

Keep in mind, though, [there is a difference between fans and air conditioners.](https://www.cielowigle.com/blog/fan-vs-ac/) Fans do not cool the air per se; they make rooms feel fresher and cooler because they move the air (and subsequently heat) away from the skin. With fans only using a small fraction of the energy that air conditioning units use, it saves so much more energy costs and is well worth it.

Bonus Tip: If you do get a ceiling fan, ensure that the blades are angled so that the air is pushed down towards the recipients and not up.

**6. Replacing HVAC Air Filters**

[Air filters](https://www.cielowigle.com/blog/ac-filter-guide/) are vital to keeping an HVAC unit running smoothly. They prevent dust and other airborne pathogens from getting into the air stream and spreading around the house. Over time, these dust particles can accumulate on the filters and block them off. If the filters are dirty, the HVAC unit will have to work harder to circulate clean and fresh air around the house.

Even though air filters are crucial, they are often the most overlooked component of an HVAC system. To keep the air conditioners’ air filter in optimal shape, it is critical to have it checked, serviced, and regularly changed.

Homeowners should replace their HVAC air filters every one to three months, maybe more frequently if they have children or pets at home. Changing the air filters will do the following for your air conditioner:

Prevent damage to the HVAC unit

Block off dust particles more efficiently

Save energy

**7. Insulate Attics and Garages**

Windows are just one place where the house leaks air. Attics, walls, and garage spaces leak air back and forth as well. Other than leaks, heat can transfer through the walls also during summer! Using a professional to [insulate your home](https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/insulation/where-insulate-home) is one of the ideal ways to achieve energy efficiency. If the house is older, [adding insulation to the existing structure](https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/insulation/adding-insulation-existing-home) can certainly be worth the investment.

By insulating the home, you prevent outdoor heat from getting inside. During the summer months, this can be a great energy saver, as you are keeping your home cool through passive means rather than employing air conditioning or other such methods.

**8. Use Blinds, Curtains, and Shades**

Air conditioning works harder in rooms that catch the sun and heat up like a greenhouse. A solution to block out the sun is to install blinds, particularly those that are light-colored. Even light-colored curtains or awnings will help block the sun.

Creative use of curtains, blinds, awnings, and other window shade treatments can help keep the house cool and thus your AC bills in check. The [Department of Energy says that smart management of window coverings alone can decrease heat gain by up to 77 percent!](https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-efficient-window-attachments)

**9. Install Solar Panels**

Typically, solar panels are installed on home roofs and utilize the sun’s energy to power a home. In return, they lower the cost of running an air conditioning unit and overall energy bills generated by air conditioner use. The investment you will need to pay for installing these panels depends on whether they are leased or bought as new. The panels are useful in reducing air conditioner cost.

Moreover, solar panels are one way that homeowners can remove the risk of becoming the next casualty of high electricity bills.

Solar energy is a powerful way to produce renewable energy to power your air conditioner and also to provide energy for the remainder of your household appliances. They can provide electricity to your home at a fraction of the cost compared to getting power from a utility provider.

Furthermore, solar panel units will generate enough energy to save you thousands in electricity costs for well over 25 years. Although a long-term investment with a high initial price, it is indeed one that is well worth it.

**10. Plant More Trees**

For an environmentally friendly way of saving energy and increasing natural scenic greenery, homeowners could plant more shrubs and trees, particularly on the south and west sides of the home. Planting bushes and other foliage-based greenery in front of windows block the sunlight from entering the house in the first place and absorbs the heat, resulting in cooler indoor temperatures.

Planting trees on the sides of your house, which face the sun, keep your home in the shade for a significant part of the day. The energy savings can be estimated because Energy Star recommends [reducing the required cooling capacity of a room by 10% if it is heavily shaded](https://www.energystar.gov/products/heating_cooling/air_conditioning_room).

These are just a few of the measures which you can take to reduce your air conditioner costs. Keeping at it for a couple of months will surely save you valuable money on your utility bills.

**Now that you know how to keep AC costs down, you can enjoy the summers without worrying about your electricity bills! For more tips on saving energy, call AC Experts for a free home analysis.**