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Fall is right around the corner ready to greet us with shorter daylight hours and cooler temperatures. This September's Green Tips target tips and strategies for reducing energy consumption that can be applied both at home and the office.

1. Proper Programming

As the temperature starts to drop in the autumn months, it's appropriate to change your thermostat settings. Try maintaining a steady 68^oF indoors during working hours at the office or while awake at home, and then lowering settings when you are away or asleep. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, you can save 5% to 15% a year on your heating bill by simply turning your thermostat back 10^o– 15^o for 8 hours. To make things simpler, programmable digital thermostats can be purchased that provide remote access to temperature control settings.

2. Window-Wise

We all know that windows can provide a great deal of natural light into a space. We also know that they can contribute to indoor temperature fluctuations. Reduce your home and office's energy demand by putting by illuminating spaces with natural light during the day, and drawing your curtains and blinds closed at night to help insulate spaces by keeping warm air in and drafts out. Additionally, you can inspect windows for proper caulking. This can dramatically affect infiltration of outdoor air indoors.

3. Reverse Rotation of Ceiling Fans

Most ceiling fans rotate in a clockwise direction, resulting in a downward breeze of cool air. However, did you know that you can reverse the direction of your ceiling fan to draw warm air up? By reversing the rotation of your ceiling fan, warm air can be circulated within a space without a breeze effect, thus helping reduce energy demand on HVAC systems.

Implement these and other Green Tips this month and you can relax knowing that you are helping to reduce energy and natural resource demand without making any major sacrifices.

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