

POWER SMART FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

Are you a BC Hydro customer?

Do you live in a low-income household?

If so, you may be eligible to receive a free Energy Saving Kit from BC Hydro.

THERE ARE SAVINGS ALL AROUND YOU

Our free Energy Saving Kit for low-income households offers a variety of simple ways to help you save energy.

By reducing how much energy you use every day, you can reduce how much you have to pay for heat and electricity.

The tools in the kit will also increase the comfort of your home, and help reduce our overall impact on the environment.



HERE'S HOW YOU APPLY

- 1 Determine your total household income for last year, before taxes. (The easiest way to figure this out is to look at your last income tax return—and the returns of anyone else who lives with you in your home—and add them together.)
- 2 Call us at 1 800 BCHYDRO and say you would like to register for an Energy Saving Kit. The line is open from 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 5pm on Saturday.
- 3 Be ready to tell us:
 - your BC Hydro account number (it's on your bill)
 - your total annual household income, before taxes
 - the number of people in your household
 - where you live

This information will be used to determine your eligibility for the program. We will not share this information with anyone else.
- 4 It doesn't matter if you rent or own, whether you live in a house or apartment, or how you heat your home (if you use gas instead of electricity, for example). If you qualify, you will receive your free Energy Saving Kit by mail in just a few weeks.



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EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES

BC Hydro 
powersmart

ENERGY SAVING KIT

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT'S IN THE ENERGY SAVING KIT?

The kit contains a number of different energy saving products that will help you reduce how much energy you use every day. For example, you will receive:

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). CFLs use up to 75% less energy than regular light bulbs. They can also last up to 10 years.

Weather stripping to put around your windows and doors and help keep out drafts.

Window insulator film to put over single-paned windows. This clear, see-through film will act as a second window to keep heat in.

Electrical outlet and switch sealers to prevent cold air from getting in through your outlets and switches.

Fridge and freezer thermometers to help you set your refrigerator and freezer at an ideal temperature where your food stays cold, but you're not wasting any extra energy.

A low-flow showerhead that uses significantly less water than a regular showerhead does.

Kitchen and bathroom tap aerators that pump air into the water flowing from your taps—so you will use up to 50% less water to wash your dishes or brush your teeth.

A long-lasting, energy saving nightlight for you or the children in your life.

You will also receive tips for reducing energy use in your home that require no installation at all, such as turning your thermostat down, taking a shorter shower and switching off the lights when you're not using a room.

HOW MUCH ENERGY WILL I SAVE?

That depends on your particular circumstances and which products you install, but here are two examples to give you a better idea:

1 Consider a single-occupant apartment dweller on Vancouver Island who pays about \$26 a month or \$312 a year for electricity.

Simply by replacing two 60-watt light bulbs with two energy saving CFLs in the kitchen and living room, she could save about \$9 a year on her energy bill.

Putting up window film, draft-proofing her sliding patio door and taking other measures to reduce how much energy she uses could result in her saving well over \$20 a year.

2 Alternatively, a family of four living in a gas-heated townhouse with electric hot water heat in the Lower Mainland might pay around \$48 a month, or \$576 a year for electricity.

By replacing two 60-watt light bulbs with two energy saving CFLs in the kitchen and living room, and one 100-watt porch light with a 20-watt CFL, they could save about \$20 a year.

Installing kitchen and bathroom tap aerators and a low-flow showerhead could result in about \$20 more in savings—for a total of over \$40 a year.

Note: These examples are for illustrative purposes only. Your annual bill and electricity savings may be higher or lower.

ARE THE ITEMS IN THE KIT HARD TO INSTALL? CAN I DO IT MYSELF?

You will receive easy, step-by-step instructions with your kit, and in most cases you will be able to install all of the items by yourself.

Most of the energy saving ideas require no tools at all. For others, you will need a screwdriver, a pair of scissors and maybe a pair of pliers or a wrench.

Safety First! If you need assistance or are unsure about installing the products, ask a friend, family member, landlord, or building maintenance worker to install the products for you.

CAN I GET MORE THAN ONE KIT?

The limit is one kit per eligible BC Hydro customer. A limited number of kits are available, so it is important that the kits are distributed to as many different customers as possible.

CAN I APPLY FOR A KIT ON BEHALF OF SOMEONE ELSE?

No, only the account holder can apply for the kit.

I RENT. IS THE KIT STILL USEFUL?

Yes, there are many products in the kit that will provide benefits whether you rent or own your home. For example, the energy efficient light bulbs can save a significant amount of electricity if installed in high use areas.

