



Assemblyman Phil Ramos: Live green, save dollars

Assemblyman Phil Ramos:

Important information
about lowering
your heating bills
this winter.



Dear Neighbor,

Home-heating costs can place a heavy burden on household budgets, often causing families to make difficult decisions about whether or not to turn on the heat during cold weather.

Inside, I have provided useful information about how you can save money and energy this winter, including:

- Tips on simple changes you can make in your home to save energy; and
- Instructions on how you can apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call my office at (631) 435-3214.

Sincerely,

Phil Ramos
Member of Assembly

Save Energy, Save Dollars

Learn about low-cost and no-cost ways to save energy and reduce your energy bills. Also learn about programs that can help you afford energy-efficient improvements with subsidies, low-interest loans or free services to qualifying households.

Interested in making your home more energy efficient?

The Weatherization Assistance Program and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) both offer services to assist residents in making energy-efficient improvements to their homes to further reduce their energy costs. For more information, contact:

New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal

1-866-ASK-DHCR (1-866-275-3427)
www.dhcr.state.ny.us/programs/weatherizationassistance

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

1-866-NYSERDA (1-866-697-3732)

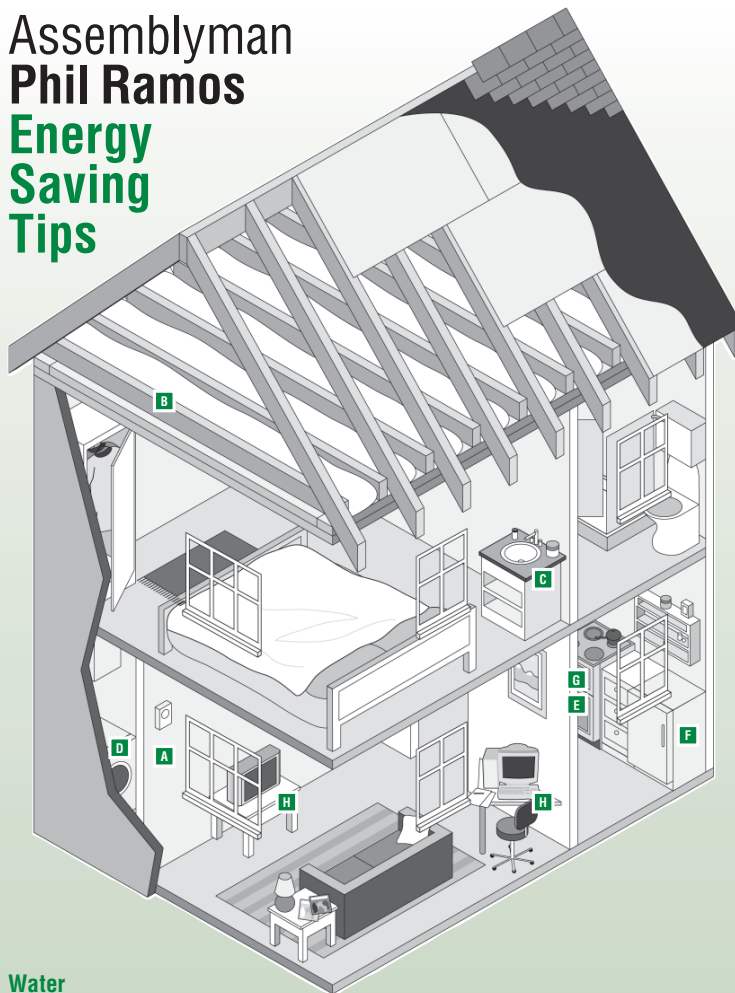
For more information, visit www.heatmartny.org
or call 1-877-NYSMART.

Home Heating

For most people, the heating system is the single largest energy user in the home. Home heating alone often accounts for more than 60 percent of your total energy bill. To save money and energy:

- A** Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable or install a programmable thermostat to turn the heat up or down at pre-set times
- Clean or replace furnace filters at least once a month
- Be certain baseboard heaters and radiators aren't blocked by furniture, carpet or drapes
- Keep drapes and shades on the south-facing side of your home open during the day to allow sunlight to enter; close them at night to reduce the chill
- Add insulation, caulk and weather-stripping around doors, windows and outlets to disallow warm air from leaving your home
- B** Insulate your attic—it's the easiest place to insulate and you'll yield tremendous energy savings
- Reverse the direction of ceiling-fan blades to push warm air down into the room
- Place heat-resistant reflectors between radiators and walls—this will allow the room, and not the wall, to be heated

Assemblyman Phil Ramos Energy Saving Tips



Water

Your water heater is one of the biggest energy users in the house. It heats water all the time—even when you're not using water.

- C** Make sure faucets are completely off
- Use water-conserving shower heads and faucet aerators
- Lower your water heater temperature to 120 degrees
- D** Wash clothes in the cold-water cycle
- Use the energy-saving settings on your dishwasher and washing machine
- E** Cover pans when boiling water—it's faster and will use less energy

Appliances

Inefficient appliances often waste more energy—and money—than we realize. After home and water heating, your appliances are the largest energy cost you have.

- F** Set refrigerator temperatures between 37 and 40 degrees and freezer temperatures at 5 degrees
- Defrost freezers and refrigerators regularly to allow the unit to be more energy efficient
- G** Look for blue flames in natural-gas appliances; yellow flames indicate the gas is burning inefficiently. Consult the manufacturer or your local utility if an adjustment is needed
- H** Unplug large appliances, including TVs, computers, VCRs, DVD players and the like when not in use because electricity is still being used even when the appliance is turned off
- Buy appliances with the ENERGY STAR label as they can use up to 50 percent less energy
- Turn lights off when not in use—even for 5 minutes—and your electricity bill will be lowered

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

HEAP is a federally funded program that issues financial assistance to lower-income families and senior citizens to help with a household's heating costs. Additionally, HEAP offers a furnace repair and/or replacement benefit for households with inoperable heating equipment. For questions or to apply, contact the Suffolk County Department of Social Services at 631-854-9935.

3 Ways to Save

- 1 Regular Benefit.** Regular HEAP benefits range from \$40 to \$600 and are based on income, the primary fuel source—such as oil, gas, propane or kerosene—and the number of household members who are age 60 or older, or who are permanently disabled.
- 2 Emergency Benefit.** Emergency benefits are available for those who are eligible for HEAP and have an energy-related emergency such as a power shutoff; less than a ¼ tank of oil, kerosene or propane; or have less than 10 days' supply of wood, pellets or coal.
- 3 Furnace Repair or Replacement.** The HEAP furnace repair and replacement component is available to help low-income homeowners repair or replace furnaces, boilers and other direct-heating components necessary to keep the home's primary heating source functional. Benefit amounts are based on the actual cost incurred to replace or repair the appliance.

