

Parish Focus Area: Facilities and Operations

Laudato Si' Goals: Response to the Cry of the Earth and Ecological Economics

Tips for Saving Energy in Your Home

The energy used in your home is typically sourced from fossil fuels such as natural gas or coal. [Becoming more energy efficient in your home](#) reduces your environmental impact and saves you money.

Heating and Cooling

- The [highest use of electricity in homes](#) is for heating and cooling, especially the use of air conditioners. To [reduce the need for air-conditioning](#), consider using ceiling fans, blinds and shades, and opening windows during cooler periods.
- Consider setting thermostats a little lower in winter and a little higher in summer to reduce the use of heating and air-conditioning. Use a [programmable thermostat](#) to easily adjust thermostat setting for times you are asleep or away from home.
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to [reduce air leaks](#).
- Properly [insulating your home](#) not only reduces heating and cooling costs, but also improves comfort.
- Save money! [AES Indiana](#) and [Duke Energy](#) customers can get rebates on some energy-efficient home improvements.
- Transition to renewable energy sources.
 - If you are interested in residential solar panels, [Solar United Neighbors](#) is a good place to start.
 - To have all or part of your monthly electrical usage generated by renewable resources, use the [Green Power](#) option (AES Indiana) or [GoGreen](#) (Duke Energy).

Lighting

- If you still have incandescent lights, replace them with [LED lights to save money](#).
- “Light people, not spaces.” Turn out lights when you leave a room, either manually or with [sensors and timers](#).
- Light pollution is a growing global issue that can negatively affect our environment and impact our quality of life. Choose outdoor lighting in line with the [Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting](#)

Appliances and Tools

- Look for Energy Star Certification to purchase energy-efficient appliances.

- The clothes dryer is a large energy user. Air-dry clothing with a clothesline or drying rack when possible. When you use the clothes dryer, be sure to clean the lint filter after each use and use the auto-dry or moisture-sensor setting.
- Gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers [release significant amounts of pollution](#) and contribute to noise pollution. Replace gasoline powered tools with manual or electric tools.
- For power tools that are used only occasionally, share with neighbors or family members.

Water Heating

Heating water is typically the second largest home energy expense. To [reduce energy use](#):

- Use less hot water with low-flow fixtures. Fix leaks, take short showers rather than baths, only run the dishwasher when it is full, and wash clothes in cold water.
- Turn down the thermostat on your water heater.
- Insulate your water heater and pipes.

Financially Support Sustainability

- Purchase goods that are [ethically sourced and produced](#), such as Fair-Trade items, when possible. [Global Gifts](#) is a local non-profit business that supports disadvantaged artisans and farmers around the world. For online shopping, consider these [eco-marketplaces](#).
- Donate to faith-based organizations that care for our common home, such as [Catholic Relief Services](#), [Catholic Climate Covenant](#), [Laudato Si' Movement](#), and [Faith In Place](#).
- Support sustainability efforts in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis by donating to the [Creation Care Endowment Fund](#). Checks can be made out to the Catholic Community Foundation with Creation Care Endowment in the memo line and mailed to Catholic Community Foundation, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Suite 105, Indianapolis, IN 46202. To donate online, go to <https://www.acrossthearch.org/ccf/donate>, choose Ministry Funds, then choose Creation Care Endowment Fund in the drop-down menu.
- Consider making a donation to offset your carbon footprint, especially emissions related to travel, through [CathCAP](#) (Catholic Climate Action Projects).