BALDWIN EMC DO-IT-YOURSELF HOME ENERGY SURVEY

Saving energy will save you money on your monthly electric bill. With this Do-it-Yourself Energy Survey, you can begin counting the savings today.

COOL IT

Your refrigerator can be a source of energy loss. Close the refrigerator door on a dollar bill. If you can slide the bill out easily, you need to replace the seal or gasket around the door. Cool air is escaping from this area.

• Does your seal need to be replaced?	**Yes**	**No**
• Locate the coils on your refrigerator. Normally they are on the back or bottom of the appliance. Do the coils appear dirty?	**Yes**	**No**

ATTIC VENTS ADD UP TO SAVINGS

Unvented attics can reach up to 150^{o} in the summer. The hotter your attic gets, the harder it is to cool the area below it. Check your attic ventilation.

• Are your soffit (eave) vents blocked with insulation?	**Yes**	**No**
• Are bath, stove and dryer vents vented into the attic?	**Yes**	**No**

CHECK IT OUT

Make sure you go outside and look at the roof. You may be familiar with the turbine style vents found along the roof of homes. A continuous ridge vent is also common. It will look like a cut out place on the roof where you can see light through it, but no water will be allowed to enter.

• Do you see a continuous ridge vent or turbine, dome or box style vent?	**Yes**	**No**

ARE THERE BATTS IN YOUR ATTIC?

Attic insulation protects your home against heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. If joists in your attic are visible, you need insulation.

• Are the joists visible?	**Yes**	**No**

Most commonly used insulation is fiberglass batts or blown-in loose fill. The depth of insulation in the attic determines its R-value. We recommend 1-12 inches of batt or 13-17 inches of blown-in insulation. This gives you an equivalent R-value of 30-38.

• My insulation depth is _____. Does it equal at least an R-value of 30?	**Yes**	**No**
• Is light visible in the attic from the living area below?	**Yes**	**No**
• Does the attic access have weather-stripping or an insulated back?	**Yes**	**No**

SET YOUR THERMOSTAT FOR COMFORT

Keep your thermostat on 78^{o} or higher in the summer and 68^{o} or lower in the winter. For every degree below 78^{o} in the summer or above 68^{o} in the winter your cooling and heating costs could increase by 3%. My thermostat is set at _____ degrees.

WINDOWS

Locate any place where air may leak into your home. Check around windows and doors or any other place where two exterior surfaces meet.

• Are your windows single pane?	**Yes**	**No**
• Do you see gaps and crevices around window and doors?	**Yes**	**No**
• Is existing caulk cracking?	**Yes**	**No**

CHECK THE OUTDOOR PORTION OF YOUR HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM

Locate your central air or heat pump unit outdoors.

• Is your unit covered with debris, limbs or shrubbery that would hamper the air flow?	**Yes**	**No**
• Is the coil clogged or dented?	**Yes**	**No**

THE DOOR TO A MAN'S CASTLE
The most efficient exterior doors are insulated or solid doors. Check for air and light filtering through gaps around the door frames.

• Are your doors hollow?	**Yes**	**No**
• Are there gaps that allow air to enter?	**Yes**	**No**
• Have you placed weather-stripping around your door?	**Yes**	**No**

ARE YOUR DUCTS IN A ROW?
Air leakage from your ductwork reduces energy efficiency and costs you money. Feel for air leaks around the joints. Check your insulation for soiled areas, which indicate leaks.

• Is the ductwork kinked or crimped?	**Yes**	**No**
• Do you feel escaping air?	**Yes**	**No**
• Is the ductwork insulated?	**Yes**	**No**
• If you have insulation, is it soiled?	**Yes**	**No**

CHECK YOUR HEATING/COOLING SYSTEM
Heating and cooling your home is your largest energy user. Proper maintenance on your system can help you save money year after year. Locate your heating and cooling system. Then find the air filter.

• Is the air filter soiled?	**Yes**	**No**
• Has it been more than 30 days since your air filter was changed?	**Yes**	**No**

WATER, WATER...
Water heating is your second largest energy user.

• Do you have leaky faucets?	**Yes**	**No**
• Do you have leaking pipes under the house?	**Yes**	**No**
• Does your water heater have an insulating blanket?	**Yes**	**No**
• Are exposed hot water pipes insulated?	**Yes**	**No**

CHECK YOUR THERMOSTAT
The water heater should be set at 120^{o} or on medium. You can check the accuracy of your thermostat by checking the hot water temperature at any faucet.

FLOOR INSULATION KEEPS TEMPERATURE IN CHECK

Go into the basement or crawl space.

• Is the floor (ceiling of the basement or crawl space) insulated?	**Yes**	**No**
• Are crawl space vents open in summer and closed in winter?	**Yes**	**No**

LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE
Are you considering outdoor lighting? Baldwin EMC offers economical outdoor lights at affordable monthly rates in sizes that will suit most homeowners.

COUNT YOUR SAVINGS
Now that you've completed your Do-It-Yourself Energy Survey, you're ready to see what changes will save you money on your monthly electric bill. Just look at your answers above, and follow the action items listed on the next page.

MAKE AN ENERGY SURVEY CHECKLIST

Look at your answers to the Do-It-Yourself Energy Survey on the previous pages and check the items below that can save you energy and money. Then use this checklist to start your customized energy savings plan.

- ❑ Straighten crimped ductwork.*
- ❑ Seal duct leaks with mastic or vinyl-back duct tape.
- ❑ Insulate ductwork with R-4 or R-6 batt insulation.
- ❑ Call my HVAC contractor for an overall inspection of my heating and cooling system.
- ❑ Change air filter(s) monthly.
- ❑ Set thermostat to recommended temperatures.
- ❑ Keep a one-foot clearance around central air conditioner or heat pump outdoor unit.
- ❑ Install water heater blanket around electric water heater.
- ❑ Use molded foam sleeves to wrap hot water pipes.
- ❑ Re-set water heater thermostat to appropriate temperature.
- ❑ Add R-11 or R-19 batts to ceiling of basement and crawlspace.
- ❑ Insulate attic recesses.
- ❑ Use a Styrofoam board or box to insulate attic opening.
- ❑ Replace single pane windows with double pane, or add storm windows.
- ❑ Replace old caulk with new.
- ❑ Install weather-stripping where needed around windows and doors.
- ❑ Replace hollow or un-insulated doors with solid wood or insulated models.
- ❑ Make sure attic ventilation is adequate.*
- ❑ Open crawl space vents in summer; close in winter.
- ❑ Dust refrigerator coils and replace damaged or leaking seals.

**Professional assistance may be required.*

MORE WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY!

Make sure you purchase energy efficient appliances. Most appliances are equipped with a label that will allow you to compare their energy use with that of similar products.

- Wash dishes and clothes only when you have a full load.
- Keep drains and filters clean so that your dishwasher, washer and dryers can work effectively.
- Use your microwave or small kitchen appliances when you can. They use a lot less energy than your conventional stove or cook top. Bake more than one dish at the time when possible. Use your appliances wisely.
- Timers can be placed on your water heater, so that water is heated only when you need it.
- Use flow restrictors on your showerheads. The less hot water you use, the more money you save.
- Use insulating shades and window coverings to reduce the amount of heat lost or gained through your windows.
- Use ceiling fans to help circulate the air throughout your home during the summer and winter months. In the winter, remember to run the fan in reverse so that the warm air is forced down.
- Use lower watt bulbs in lamps wherever you can. New florescent bulbs can really cut costs.
- Consider a programmable thermostat if you are away from home during the day. It will automatically adjust the temperature to your comfort level before you return.
- Keep the damper closed on your fireplace when it's not in use.
- Visit our website for more energy savings tips at www.baldwinemc.com.

For more information, please contact an Energy Marketing Specialist at BALDWIN EMC.