

GREEN HOMES: LOS ANGELES TENANT TOOLKIT

The U. S. Green Building Council - Los Angeles (USGBC-LA) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to making the LA region more sustainable, resilient, and equitable for all. This toolkit provides resources for people to respond to climate change at home by optimizing their energy and water use to lower utility bills, improve health, and increase community resilience.

How does climate change affect Angelenos, and what can you do to make a difference?

Los Angeles is facing mounting challenges amplified by climate change. A warming planet can extend droughts, increase the number of extreme heat days per year, make flooding more common, and increase the frequency of wildfires.

This toolkit provides low-to-no-cost tips to save money on your utility bills.

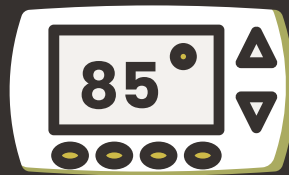
Tackling Household Utility Bills

Tips & Tricks for Reducing Energy and Water Costs in the LA Region

Heating and Cooling



Keep thermostats between **62°F and 68°F** for heat during the winter & **72°F and 78°F** for cooling in the summer.



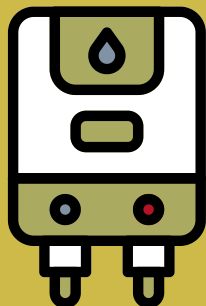
During heat waves, set your A/C to 85°F.

- **Weather strip doors and windows** to keep your home a more comfortable temperatures by sealing cracks.
- **Clean or replace your A/C filters** to save up to 15% on energy bills.
- **Use a fan instead of an A/C unit** when possible.
- **When it is hot out**, close the shades and windows during the day and open your windows at night for cooler air.

Hot Water

If you have an in-unit hot water heater, make sure that it is set to:

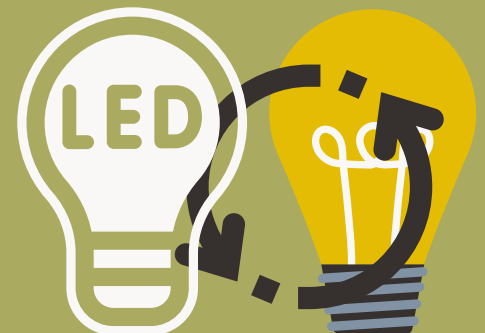
120°F



Lighting

Switch an incandescent bulb to LED to save on average \$10 per year.

Learn more about [EnergyStar-certified light bulbs](#).

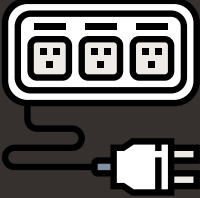


Additional Tips for Reducing Utility Costs



Go to this link to find more information on available programs and rebates!

Appliances



Use **smart plugs** and **advanced power strips** that act like light switches for outlets.



Unplug your larger appliances before you leave for work or go on vacation.



Choose **EnergyStar** products when shopping which use less energy and can save you hundreds of dollars a year.



Use **mass transit** or look for local programs and rebates to help reduce the cost of **electric vehicles** and **e-bikes**.



Renewable Energy For Renters

Look for **Community Solar Programs** offered by local utility companies.

Measure and Save!

YellowTin

Sign up for **YellowTin** – a personal energy savings and emissions calculator to find local rebate information and products that reduce energy costs at home.

Practice USGBC-LA's Healthy Building Commitment.



Improve Indoor Air Quality

Ventilating your home helps improve indoor air quality.

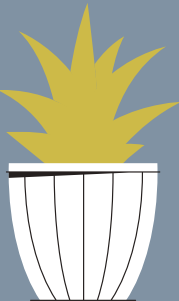
- Regularly vacuum carpet and rugs
- Use vents to remove cooking fumes
- Use fans and open windows to regularly flush out air
- Store any chemicals in enclosed or well-ventilated areas



Use Green Cleaning Practices

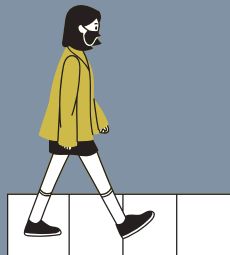
Using environmentally friendly products can reduce exposure to chemicals associated with long-term health problems.

- Choose EPA Safer Choice, Eco Logo, and Green Seal Certified cleaning products
- Swap plastic bottles for glass
- Try 50:50 water and white vinegar for glass or baking soda for cleaning



Make Nature Accessible

- Connect with nature to reduce stress.
- Try adding air-purifying plants to your home.



Promote Physical Activity

- Try to stand up and move every 30 minutes when at home.



Healthy Building Commitment



Green Homes: LA



Enroll in YellowTin