

Energy Savings Tips

• **Keep the heat out.** Half of all of the heat that enters your home comes in through the windows. Invest in a thick shade or window film to block out the summer sun. Shade west-facing windows, which absorb the most afternoon sun. For the hottest parts of your house, consider installing an awning or planting trees in front of the window to shade the house.

• **Turn it on.** Replace the most used light bulbs in your house with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). They cost more at first than incandescent bulbs, but they use 75 percent less energy. Plus, CFLs emit less heat than incandescent bulbs, so they don't add heat to your home's air or make the air conditioner work harder.

• **Service makes you smile.** Have your heat pump serviced by a qualified technician. While the technician is there, ask about sealing your ductwork with "mastic" to improve the efficiency of your unit. And, don't forget to change your filters.

• **Holiday cooking.** If you have a lot of holiday cooking planned, your energy use can really add up. Make sure your pan covers the coil of your electric range. If you can see coil peeping out from the sides of your pan, you're losing energy and you need to use the smaller burner. Cover pans while cooking to prevent heat loss. Just before your food is cooked completely, turn off the oven or burner and allow the heat in the pot or pan to continue the cooking process for you.

• **Light up your life.** Remove globes from overhead lights and wash them in warm, soapy water. Clean light covers let more light shine through, which will make your room look brighter and save you from turning on a second lamp.

• **Warm savings.** In cold weather keep your thermostat at 68 degrees. For every degree above or below this setting, your heating bill could change 3% to 5%. Clean or replace heating system filters once a month or as needed.

• **Solar heating.** Keep draperies and shades open on south-facing windows

during the heating season to allow sunlight to enter your home. Close them at night. Here's another tip: Use kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans wisely; in just one hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of conditioned air. Turn fans off as soon as you're done.

• **Maintain your cool.** To keep your refrigerator running efficiently, vacuum coils every three months, more if you have pets. Make sure the door seals are airtight by placing a dollar bill between the gasket and the doorjamb and closing the door. Pull the bill out. If it offers some resistance, the gasket fits properly. If the bill comes right out, or falls out, the gasket is faulty and should be replaced. Test the gasket at several locations around the door.

• **Outdoor energy.** Just as you would indoors, turn off lights outside when they are not needed. Adding photo-sensors, motion sensors or timers can save energy by adding light only where and when it is needed. Compact fluorescent lights are available in a variety of styles to suit your outdoor

lighting needs. For landscaping features, consider low-voltage or solar outdoor lighting.

• **Join the "fan" club.** In the summer, a ceiling fan creates a wind-chill effect, making you feel much cooler. However, operate the fan only when someone is in the room. Fans won't actually cool the room, so there's no reason to use electricity when you don't need it.

• **Seal the deal.** To avoid losing cool air in the summer make sure to caulk and weather strip your windows and doors where they meet the wall. This can also be done in places where plumbing, ductwork and electrical wiring pass through exterior walls, floors, ceilings and over cabinets.

• **Crank up the thermostat.** For every degree you turn your thermostat up during air conditioning season, you'll save up to 2 percent on your cooling costs. Try setting your thermostat at 78 degrees, and turn on a ceiling fan to help circulate the air in occupied rooms.



TheseventhannualCarolinaChamber Music Festival in downtown New Bern will commence on September 10 and conclude on September 19. A total of five varied and interactive programs will be in locations throughout downtown New Bern.

This year's Festival features a lineup of world-class musicians who appear

internationally as soloists and are affiliated with leading ensembles including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. The Festival offers a variety of programs aimed at creating an up-close-and- personal concert experience with something for everyone. The Festival concerts are paired with interactive entertaining functions including post-concert "Meet the Artists" receptions, pre-concert discussions and informal question-and-answer sessions with the artists.

The Festival opens on Thursday, September 10, with "Classical Lunch," a one-hour noontime event of light classical selections performed by the Calyx Piano Trio. Audiences are invited to enjoy the event from standard audience seating or bring a

lunch to enjoy at table seating. Tickets are \$10 for general admission

On Saturday, September 12, the Festival continues with "Calyx and Friends," featuring Scott Andrews, principal clarinetist of the St. Louis Symphony, who joins the Calyx Piano Trio in an evening of classical masterpieces. Individual tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for student/seniors.

On Sunday, September 13, it's the "Festive Family Concert," featuring North Carolina's own Chris Nappi, percussionist, performing alongside local student musicians. This event is free.

Newcomer Shea Scruggs, assistant principal oboist of the Baltimore Symphony, alongside returning musicians—violinist Catherine French, pianist/violinist Melvin Chen, violist Amadi Akiziwe, cellist Jennifer Lucht, mezzo-soprano Eve Gigliotti,

and harpist Anna Reinersman—will present "Faure After Work" on Thursday, September 17. This concert celebrates the music of French Impressionist composer Gabriel Faure. Tickets are \$20 for general admission. Space is limited for this popular event, and advance ticket purchase is recommended.

The Carolina Chamber Music Festival concludes with its annual "Festival Finale Concert" on Saturday, September 19, featuring a new work for mezzo-soprano, harp, oboe and strings written especially for the Festival by Composer-in-Residence Paul Crabtree. Individual tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for student/seniors.

For additional information about these events or to order tickets, please call 626-5419 or visit www.carolinachambermusic.org.