

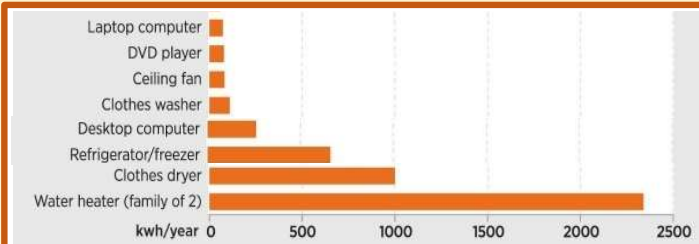
In March

TASK OF THE MONTH

Be energy smart

TIPS for electrifying our homes:

Know how much energy your appliances use to set priorities;



Water heaters use about 20% of a home's energy, so upgrading has a high impact; Install an **EnergyStar**® heat pump water heater and **save 30%**



of the *installed* cost with up to a \$2000 federal tax credit; <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/home-energy-tax-credits>



Set your **refrigerator** to 35°F to 38°F, your freezer to 0°F; And don't block the air flow!

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/refrigerator-freezer-use-and-temperature-tips>



Ready to replace your refrigerator? Compare **EnergyStar**® scores;



Want to know *exactly* how much energy your appliances or electronics are using?

Borrow an **energy monitor** from the Kirkwood branch of the Monroe County Public Library's "Library of Things" to measure how much energy each is using;

Save energy on electronics:

Use surge protector strips to shut off electronics when not in use;



Save energy on lighting:

LEDs are better for the environment than CFLs;*

But LED features & quality vary:

Color temperature (in Kelvin)

- Warmer (2700K) for living areas;
- Whiter (3000K) for work areas;

Accurate Color Rendering Index (CRI)

- Look for CRIs in the 80s to 90s for better quality of light;

Reading the labels

- Brightness is listed with incandescent equivalents;
- Dimmable options are available;
- Compare efficiency ratings;

*LEDs use less energy and last longer than CFLs, so there is less waste; And they do not contain toxic mercury like CFLs do;

Joining Citizens Climate Lobby

(CCL) provides a great way to connect with local members and receive weekly briefings with suggested actions;

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>



Earth Care Bloomington

<http://www.earthcareindiana.org/>

Questions: contact@earthcareindiana.org

