

## Home Appliances – Save Energy, Save Money

### Why we care

The number one contributor to global warming is the production of electricity. In Oregon, about 50% of our electricity comes from burning coal or natural gas. Since prices for these fuels will undoubtedly rise, especially if new cap-and-trade systems are put in place, now may be a good time to take stock of the biggest electricity users in your home – your appliances. After space heating systems and hot water heaters, the three appliances that use the most electricity are the stove, refrigerator, and clothes dryer.

### Simple, positive change

- Use a clothesline. Air-drying your wash for six months of the year can save 723 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere. Added bonus: clothes last longer, and smell fresher. Air-drying year-round can save about \$50 a year.
- For T-posts, umbrellas, pulley systems, reels, and retractable clotheslines, see [www.clotheslineshop.com](http://www.clotheslineshop.com).
- If the stiffness of air-dried towels and clothing bothers you, throw them in the dryer without heat for just a few minutes to soften.
- New refrigerators use about one-half the energy of older ones. If your fridge is 15 years old, consider replacing it and save about \$40 year.
- Avoid side-by-side models and fridges with automatic ice-makers that can add 10% to 25% to the cost of operation. Don't buy a fridge that is any bigger than what you will keep filled because extra space requires more energy to cool.
- When shopping, look for the Oregon Residential Energy Tax Credit sticker.

**Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at [info@earthleaders.org](mailto:info@earthleaders.org).**