

EASY ENERGY SAVING TIPS BY FRANCINE MILLMAN

We've all heard the rumors – 'This year, energy prices will increase by 70%'!!! While there are no firm figures on what the increase will be, we have all been feeling the pinch.

Here are some things everyone can do within their own home to help save energy costs. I saw this article on SmartMoney.com written by Aleksandra Todorova and wanted to pass it along. You may already be doing some of these, but it might be fun to see what else you can do!

Homeowners can cut their heating bills dramatically by taking a few relatively painless, easy steps.

IT'S NO SECRET THAT home-heating costs are expected to soar this winter. Fortunately, homeowners can cut their heating bills dramatically by taking a few relatively painless steps.

But why stop there? According to the Edison Electric Institute, or EEI, a Washington-based energy trade association, space heating represents only about 49% of the energy use in American homes. The other 51% is attributed to household appliances, lighting and water heating. And while those bills might not be soaring, you still can save money by practicing energy conservation.

What follows is a list of little-known ways to save on these costs, according to the EEI, power company **Consolidated Edison** ([ED](#)) and the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, or NEADA, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group. (Technically, the tips below cover 44% of your household's average energy use; the remaining 7% is attributed to air-conditioning.) Some of these strategies might sound a bit extreme. But then again, you might be ready for some extreme measures once those winter energy bills start rolling in.

1. APPLIANCES AND LIGHTING

It's hard to believe, but appliances and lighting account for 28% of the typical household's annual energy use. Here's what you can do to conserve.

Lighting

- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. On average, they use 66% less energy, according to the EEI.
- Keep bulbs clean. Dust can cut light output by as much as 25%, according to NEADA.

Cooking

- When preheating an oven, don't let it sit empty for longer than necessary, and don't open the door to check on food. Every time you do that, you lose 25% of the heat.
- Use a microwave oven instead of a regular oven. You'll burn about 40% less energy.
- Keep the inside of your microwave clean. It will cook your food more efficiently.
- Use the smallest pans possible. It takes energy to heat them.
- Use lids. They help the food cook more quickly by keeping steam inside.
- Use glass or ceramic pans in ovens. They heat faster than metal pans.

Washing machine, dryer

- Wash and dry full loads, and don't over-dry clothes.
- Keep the dryer's lint filter clean.
- Wash laundry in cold water instead of hot, unless you're dealing with very dirty loads.
- Don't add wet items to a load in the dryer that has already been started.

Dishwasher

- Wash only full loads. It costs exactly the same to wash one dish as a whole load.
- If your dishwasher has an air-dry feature, use it.
- If you wash by hand, rinse dishes in groups rather than one at a time, and don't leave the water running.

Refrigerator

- Check refrigerator temperatures by putting one thermometer in a glass of water in the center of the fridge and another between packages in the freezer. You're losing money if temperatures are lower than 37-40 degrees for

the main compartment and 0-5 degrees in the freezer.

- Cover and wrap food. Uncovered food and liquids release moisture and drive up electricity costs.
- Let hot food cool before putting it in the fridge. This way the fridge will use less energy to cool it down.
- Keep the freezer full. It's more efficient than an empty freezer. If necessary, fill up the space with plastic containers filled with water.
- If you have a second fridge that's not being used, unplug it. It can cost about \$130 a year to keep it plugged in.

2. WATER HEATING

Water heating is the third-largest money-eater in your home, accounting for 16% of annual energy consumption. Remember: you're paying for the water and you're paying to heat it. You should:

- Lower your water heater temperature from 140 degrees to 120 degrees. You'll cut your water heating costs by 10% to 15%, the EEI says. Unfortunately, if you have an older-model dishwasher that doesn't have a booster heater (a device that heats up the water to the temperature the dishwasher needs to clean the dishes), you should leave the water heater set to 140 degrees to make sure the bacteria on your dishes are good and dead.
- Insulate your storage water heater tank. You'll save 4% to 9% on water heating costs.
- Drain the sediment from the bottom of the water heater tank every one to three years.
- Install low-flow shower head and faucets. They use one-third to half the water used by regular shower heads. You can cut your water use and water heating costs by an average 15% to 30%, according to the EEI.
- Take short showers (and preferably, no baths — showers use less hot water).

Sources: Tips compiled from publications by Project Energy Savers, sponsored by the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association (NEADA), and the EEI.

**MARIN COUNTY PARKS & OPEN
SPACE VOLUNTEERS CLEAN-UP
MULTI-USE PATH
BY KEN CAMPBELL**

Aren't we lucky that we have that multi-use path at our doorstep? What a great place to take a walk, ride your bike or scooter or walk your dog! It is something many of us take for granted. And yet, like everything, it requires maintenance in order to enjoy and to prevent fires.

We all know it's the old railroad line and when it closed in 1950's, it was taken over by Marin County Parks & Open Space who mow the median and maintain and the pathway. Earlier this year Cindy Brown who coordinates their volunteer vegetation program contacted me and offered to bring volunteers to spend some time on vegetation management on the multi-use path.

She suggested our focus be at the section north of Vasco Court since there were many non-indigenous plants which needed to be removed. She also pointed out the benefits of the vegetation management with regard to the potential fire danger from Horse Hill.

So at 9am one Saturday, a Marin County Parks & Open Space dump truck and vehicles arrived with five of their volunteers, all the necessary tools and equipment, snacks and cold beverages, ready to go to work. Cindy had asked if there were any residents who would come out and help so several of my neighbors were there armed with gloves, cutters and lots of enthusiasm.

By 11.30am we had cleared more than a 100 yards of brush, scotch broom, poison oak, and other plants, two vintage beer bottles, nine beer cans, three very used tennis balls and a long discarded Barbie doll! It was a very successful morning with a definite sense of satisfaction for all the participants.

If you live next to or up against open space and would like help and advice on brush management contact Marin County Parks & Open Space Volunteer Vegetation Program.

Cindy Brown, Park Ranger/Volunteer Coordinator,
Marin County Parks & Open Space,
www.marincountyparks.org, email:
cbrown@co.marin.ca.us, or call: (415) 507-2823



**SPEEDING & SIGNAGE & MARIJUANA BUSTS – OH MY!
BY KEN CAMPBELL**

The issues of traffic in Scott Valley has been on the agenda for the last year following residential request to have additional traffic management implemented, stop signs, speed limit signs and road markings.

Since some of these tools have been implemented, you might have noticed the MVPD cruiser has been around. Over the past six months, they have issued 15 citations in the Scott valley area, alone.

There were also 2 citations of pot possession, which was determined after the drivers were stopped for a moving violation.

If you have never had a moving violation citation, this is what it will likely to cost you:

- Stress!
- A stop sign fine is \$147.
- Speeding from 1-15 MPH over the speed limit is \$114.
- Speeding from 16-25 MPH over the speed limit is \$186.
- Speeding over 25 MPH over the speed limit requires a mandatory appearance to see the judge.
- A trip to the traffic school
- If you don't have good record, you will likely be paying more for your auto insurance!

The simple message is: DON'T SPEED!

**CURIOUS ABOUT SCOTT VALLEY HOME SALES FOR 2005?
BY NANCY GLASENK**

The media devotes considerable time debating trends in the residential real estate market. Is the bubble going to burst? Is the housing market still red hot in Marin? Let the economists, realtors and others make predictions, while we see what home sales in Scott Valley were for 2005.

Thanks to **Chris Glave, Broker Associate** with **Frank Howard Allen** at (415) 384-2222 for providing information on the home sales in Scott Valley for 2005.

Address	Bed/Bath	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price	Month Sold
14 Albert	5/4	3847	\$1,950,000	Feb 05
215 Benson	5/3	3814	\$1,675,000	Feb 05
10 Middle Ct	3/2	1966	\$1,200,000	Mar 05
5 Eton	3/4	2795	\$1,600,000	Mar 05
10 Stanton	3/2	1637	\$1,170,000	Mar 05
18 Azalea	4/2	2195	\$1,385,000	Apr 05
19 Vasco	4/2	2074	\$1,540,000	Sept 05
19 Underhill	3/2	1666	\$1,149,000	Sept 05
6 Azalea	4/2	1747	\$1,700,000	Oct 05

BECOME A SVHA MEMBER

It's that time again! For \$40 a calendar year, your board continues working on your behalf to keep you

informed and to represent the interests of Scott Valley. We continue to maintain the landscaping and supplying the emergency preparedness strong box, as well as provide you with The Voice and special mailings on pertinent topics. Paid members also have the opportunity to vote for issues that require voting within Scott Valley. We appreciate both your community and financial support. .

Please send your \$40 membership fee to: **Scott Valley Homeowners' Association, P.O. Box 392, Mill Valley, CA 94942.**

Scott Valley Voice
This is a collaborative effort of the
Scott Valley Board of Directors

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******READER SURVEY #1******

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

**IS IT TIME TO REPLACE THE
SCOTT VALLEY SIGN?**

The sign at the corner of Camino Alto and Vasco Drive has been there since Scott Valley was established.

Please let us know if you think it is time to replace/update the sign with one that better reflects today's Scott Valley image, please let us know.

Either:

1. send an email to scottvalleyha@aol.com or
2. drop a note to: Scott Valley Homeowners' Association,
PO Box 392 Mill Valley, CA 94942.

**Please return all opinions by
November 15th, 2005.**

******READER SURVEY #2******

WE WANT YOUR OPINION!

**IN YOUR OPINION, HAS THE
RECENT SIGNAGE AND
STRIPING IN ON UNDERHILL
HELPED TO LESSEN SPEEDING
IN SCOTT VALLEY?**

Either:

1. send an email to
scottvalleyha@aol.com or
2. drop a note to: Scott Valley Homeowners' Association,
PO Box 392 Mill Valley, CA 94942.

**Please return all opinions by
November 15th, 2005**

We want your feedback!

See the two Scott Valley surveys
inside this newsletter!



**We have a GREAT topic for the upcoming
homeowners' association Annual meeting
– see inside for details!**

Scott Valley
Homeowners' Association
PO Box 392
Mill Valley, CA 94942

**Dated Material
Please Read ASAP!**