

Energy Saving Tips

- Control your thermostat setting. The temperature at which you set the thermostat will affect your energy savings. In the summer, raise your thermostat setting.
- Turn down the thermostat on your water heater to a temperature of 115 degrees. If you have a dishwasher, check to make sure this lower temperature will clean the dishes properly. Run only full loads in the dishwasher and scrape dishes with cold water.
- Use fluorescent or energy saving lights.
- Change air filters every month.
- Make sure heating registers and vents are not blocked by draperies, furniture or rugs. These vents should also be cleaned regularly with a vacuum or a broom.
- Check for cracked weatherstripping around doors and windows.
- Wash clothes in cold water and clean dryer filters after each load.
- Turn off your oven five minutes before you are done baking to take advantage of built-up heat.
- Cover your pans when cooking to reduce cooking time and the amount of heat needed.
- Clean the bottom and back of your refrigerator once a year. It will run more efficiently.
- If you have an outside air conditioning unit or heat pump, make sure that it is not blocked by shrubbery, leaves or other objects.

City of Gastonia

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City of Gastonia



HOME ENERGY SAVER PROGRAM

**part of the
Gastonia Electric Assistance
Resource (GEAR)
Program**

181 South Street, Suite 206
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704-866-6758

The City of Gastonia is excited to introduce the GEAR HOME ENERGY SAVER PROGRAM

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The purpose of the HOME ENERGY SAVER PROGRAM is to increase home energy efficiency while reducing energy costs for low-income homeowners. **This assistance is of no-cost to eligible applicants.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted along with required documentation to the Community Development office for approval.

Once preliminarily eligibility is met, staff will meet with you to conduct a home energy audit and access the feasibility of assistance. During the audit staff determines which home modifications are the most cost effective and appropriate to make the home more energy efficient. Typical modifications include:

- Air sealing
- Door Replacement
- Heating & cooling systems (tune-up, repair and/or replacement)
- Insulation
- Installation of fluorescent light bulbs
- Window replacement (**limited capacity**)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 62 years of age or older
- Own home and use as primary residence
- Be the primary City of Gastonia utility account holder
- Meet income guidelines based on household size (see below):

Income Guidelines
Maximum income level to qualify

<u>Gross Monthly Income</u>	<u>Household Size</u>
\$1,941	1
\$2,216	2
\$2,495	3
\$2,770	4
\$2,991	5
\$3,237	6
\$3,437	7
\$3,658	8

For further details or to request an application, call (704) 866-6758

INELIGIBILITY

- Customers receiving utility assistance through other City programs or customers receiving utility assistance through subsidized housing programs.
- No record of unauthorized usage of any utility service.
- Customers whose utilities are included with the rent.
- Customers who cannot provide documentation of income or verification of address.
- Persons who lease or rent property

INCOME DOCUMENTATION

The following are income sources that are needed to document household income:

- Wages
- Wages from self employment
- Unemployment benefits
- Child Support
- Worker's Comp
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Employment disability