What can I do to reduce my gas usage this winter?

1) Gone during the day? Set the temperature on your **thermostat** lower. For every degree that you lower your heat, you can save about five percent! A setback thermostat will lower the temperature at night and have it come on automatically in time for you to get up in the warmth!
2) Have a **fireplace**? Be sure the flue's damper is closed when not in use. Not going to use the fireplace at all this year? Have an insulation board cut to fit in the flue and block heat loss.
3) Have your furnace inspected and be sure to change furnace **filters** regularly. The more efficiently the furnace runs, the less energy it takes and the more money you save!
4) Be sure the **windows and doors** have adequate weather stripping and caulking. Take out the window air conditioner units. Put in your storm windows or be sure they are closed. Try using the plastic window wrap kits, which are inexpensive and can't be seen if installed correctly. Fill all gaps in walls, ceilings, floors and foundations.
5) Reduce the temperature on your **hot water heater**. Usually 120 degrees Fahrenheit is sufficient for most homes, unless your dishwasher requires a higher setting.
6) Close your overhead **garage doors** to prevent heat loss. Air flow increases substantially every time the garage door is up.
7) Change your **clothing** style! Invest in some sweaters and sweatshirts or go for the layered look which is popular now! Save the short sleeves for next spring!
8) Something simple? Open the **drapes** in the afternoon and let the sun heat your home for free! Just be sure to close them at sundown to keep the warm in! Put your **chairs and sofas** against inside walls, not exterior ones or windows which may be drafty.
9) Look **online** for other energy saving tips for electricity and water.
10) One final way to save money on your gas bill: **pay on time** by the last day of every month. A ten percent penalty is added if you pay any later! An equalizer plan is available to our gas customers who have lived in their homes for a year or more. The plan starts in May of each year.