#### DEBUNKING 5 COMMON MYTHS ABOUT HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

**MYTH #1: REPLACING WINDOWS AND DOORS IS THE BEST WAY TO SAVE ENERGY.**

If you have functional windows, it makes more financial sense to improve them than to replace them with energy-efficient windows. Caulk any gaps and cracks around window frames. Be sure that windows are fully shut. Put up interior window plastic, available in kits at hardware stores. If you don't have storm windows, have them made. Also, for drafty doors, use weather-stripping and door sweeps.

**MYTH #2: SIMPLY INSTALLING A SMART THERMOSTAT WILL HELP ME SAVE ENERGY.**

On their own, [smart thermostats](https://www.dcseu.com/homes/smart-thermostats) do not make your heating or cooling system more efficient. The money-saving value lies in their ability to automatically regulate the temperature inside your house to coincide with your schedule. For that to happen, you first must program it or allow its algorithms to learn your schedule and adjust your settings accordingly.

**MYTH #3: TURNING ELECTRONICS "OFF" STOPS THEM FROM USING ENERGY.**

Electronics (like video game consoles) can hike up your monthly utility bill when they’re plugged in and not being used, called vampire power. Advanced power strips like [this one from TrickleStar](https://www.tricklestar.com/products/ts1104-7-outlet-advanced-powerstrips.html) offer surge protection and reduce vampire power by automatically switching off peripheral devices when their TV or PC isn't in use.

**MYTH #4: A CEILING FAN LEFT ON IN AN EMPTY ROOM WILL HELP KEEP IT COOL.**

Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. While a ceiling fan's gentle breeze does wonders to cool our skin, there is no benefit to circulating the air in an empty room. Be sure to turn ceiling fans off when you leave the room to avoid wasted electricity.

**MYTH #5: LEDS COST TOO MUCH TO BE WORTH THE INVESTMENT.**

You can save more than $65-$100 per year in energy costs just by replacing the bulbs in your home's five most frequently-used light fixtures with ENERGY STAR models. With DCSEU-discounted LED bulbs for [as low as $0.95](https://www.dcseu.com/homes/energy-efficient-lighting) at retailers across the city, your investment will pay for itself in no time.

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