

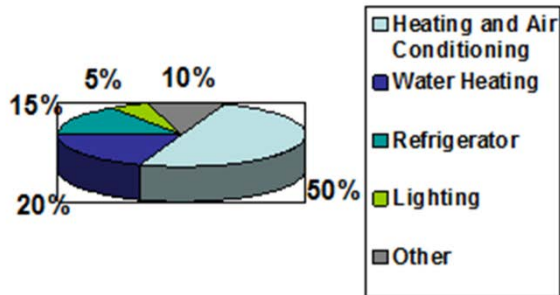
# Save Money: Be a Savvy Consumer of Energy

*Extension Education Program*

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Leon County



## How energy is used in the typical Tallahassee home

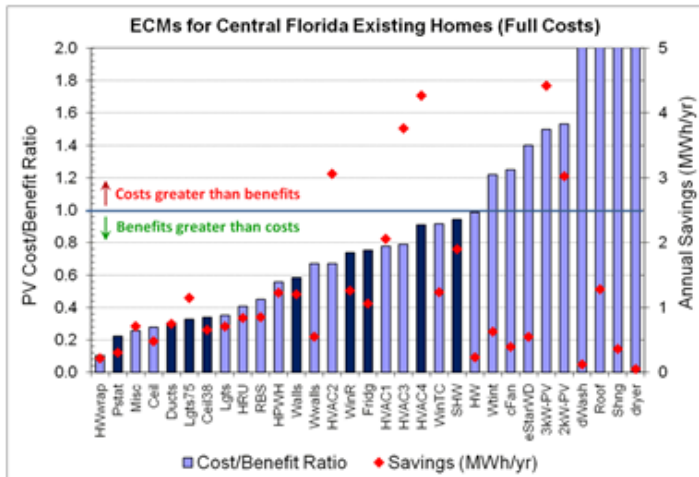


## Rationale:

- ▶ Using the terms ‘savvy’ and ‘saving’ simultaneously can be a compelling reason for consumers to take a look at personal behavior.
- ▶ Can consumers be persuaded to make behavior changes that result in saving both energy and money?

## Florida Retrofit Potentials

(James Fenton, Director, University of Central Florida's Florida Solar Energy Center, 2010)



# Objectives:

- ▶ Persuade consumers to take a personal look at residential energy consumption behaviors.
- ▶ Facilitate comprehension of influences on personal conduct.
- ▶ Encourage personal behavior change to conserve energy.

## Why save energy?

- **Cost** – Reduce my energy costs
- **Efficiency** – Become more energy efficient to forestall the need for costly new power plants
- **Health** – Reduce fossil fuel-fired power plant emissions to improve air quality and human respiratory health
- **Sustainability** – Engage in a more sustainable lifestyle with less consumption of earth's resources
- **Carbon Footprint** – Reduce the CO2 emissions my lifestyle contributes to the rate of global warming
- **Climate Change** – Reduce greenhouse gases associated with climate change



## Here's what we'll look at today:

- **Big energy users**
- **Moderate energy users** which have the potential to become big energy users
- **Small-to-moderate energy users** which can become big users
- **Big savings achieved at no cost**, through behavior changes
- **Big savings achieved at low cost**, through inexpensive purchases
- **Spending more \$\$ to save \$\$**
- **City cost-share programs** that can help you save



# Methods:

## Save Money: Be a Savvy Consumer of Energy

AARP Boomer Academy  
March 2015

Bob Seaton, City of Tallahassee Energy Services & Will Sheftall, UF-Leon County Extension



City of Tallahassee  
Your Own Utilities™



Project of the Council of Neighborhood Associations Stephen Hogge, President

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## Keep an eye on these uses...

Moderate energy users which have the potential to become big energy users

- Refrigerators (if old and/or in garage)
- Freezers (if old and/or in garage)
- Lights (left on unnecessarily)
- Outdoor night lighting (if always on at night)
- Ceiling fans (left on when not present in room)
- Pool pump (running non-stop)
- Attic power vent fan (always running)
- Phantom load (if not needed) auto-taping of TV programs by your VCR would be a justifying use



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- ▶ Extension agents presented a PowerPoint followed by a facilitated discussion highlighting how simple energy-mindful behaviors can confer outsized benefits in energy and money saved... often with little financial outlay.



## Manipulate window coverings

- **Open blinds on sunny winter days to gain heat**
- **Close blinds on winter nights to hold in heat**
- **Close blinds on summer days to keep out heat**



## Results:

- ▶ A post lecture feedback form indicated 100% of participants reported they would be more attuned to energy use issues.
- ▶ Participants increased their knowledge about:
  - Small investments that provide a short return on investment (ROI) if installed correctly and used efficiently.
  - How to efficiently manage the principal systems that use energy in the home.
  - Appliance replacement efficiency.

## Switch primary heating appliances to natural gas

- Home heating jobs like cooking, heating water, drying clothes are always cheaper with natural gas. **Water heating costs for a family of four:**
  - 1) New natural gas (tankless): \$170.28/year
    - (57% less than electric)
  - 2) New natural gas (tank): \$223.50/year
    - (39% less than electric)
  - 3) New electric (tank): \$372.24/year
  - 4) New LP gas (tankless) @ \$3/gal \$432.38/year
  - 5) New LP gas (tank) @ \$3/gal \$567.49/year
- [above calculated at COT residential rates not including taxes]

