LIVING current

A few simple steps can make a big difference in conserving energy and saving money.

UDR®

Opening doors to the future℠

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR THERMOSTAT

The thermostat affects how much it costs to heat and cool your apartment. Lowering it by even a few degrees will save you money.

- In winter, lowering your "normal" thermostat setting just 3 degrees can save almost 10% on the monthly energy bill.
- In summer, keep the thermostat for your central air conditioning at 78°. You can save an additional 5-7% off your cooling costs for each degree above 78°.
- You can save even more by raising or lowering your thermostat when no one is home.
- The longer your apartment stays at a higher setting in the summer and a lower one in the winter, the more you save.
- The thermostat is not like the gas pedal in a car—turning it to the highest setting does not heat your home any faster. This actually wastes more energy.
- Do not place a lamp, television, computer or any other device that creates heat near your thermostat.
- Your service team replaces HVAC filters regularly to keep the system operating efficiently and effectively.

LIGHTING

- Remember to always turn off lights when leaving a room for an extended period.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs) in fixtures that you use on a regular basis.
- Use CFLs in portable table and floor lamps. Carefully consider the size and fit of these systems when you select them. Certain home fixtures may not accommodate some of the larger CFLs.

energy
ENERGY STAR
PARTNER

REDUCE · REUSE · RECYCLE

SEEING GREEN roomBY room

REDUCE · REUSE · RECYCLE

LIVING ROOM

- Make sure all air registers or floor vents are clear of furniture so that the air can circulate freely.
- In the summer, a reversible ceiling fan can be set at low speed in a counter-clockwise direction to create a cooling downdraft. In the winter, change to clockwise to circulate warm air from the ceiling down.
- Close a fireplace flue damper tightly when not in use to prevent warmed or cooled air escaping.
- Remember to always turn off lights when leaving a room for an extended period.

KITCHEN

- Your refrigerator should be set at 37° degrees to 40° F and the freezer compartment at 0° F.
- Cover liquids and wrap food stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and force the compressor to work harder.
- Avoid putting hot foods directly in the freezer. Allow them to cool first before storing them.
- A freezer is most efficient when its compartment is full. Do not block the cooling fan that allows air to circulate.
- Use the right sized pot on stove burners. A 6" pot on an 8" burner wastes over 40% of the burner's heat. Also, cover pots and pans to keep heat in.

- Save water by scraping dishes instead of rinsing them before loading in the dishwasher. Only run the dishwasher with a full load and use the air-dry option, if available.
- Use a microwave oven instead of your conventional range or oven to reduce heat buildup and save energy.

BEDROOM

- Use a portable fan to move air and keep you cool.
- Electric blankets use very little electricity. Set on "high" about 15 minutes before going to bed, then either turn it off or set to "low." If left on all night, remember to turn it off in the morning.
- Draw the curtains or blinds during the hottest part of the day to keep the house cool, especially for west-facing windows.

BATHROOM

- Hot water accounts for 12% of the typical utility bill. A cost effective setting for the water heater is 120-130 degrees or "Warm" to just below "Medium."
- Take showers rather than baths. A shower saves 4-5 gallons of water.
- After showering, run the vent fan for 10 minutes to reduce moisture.
- Fix dripping faucets. A leak of one drop per second wastes over 250 gallons of water a month.
- Unplug hair dryers, stylers and

curling irons when not in use. When plugged in, they continue to draw energy.

HOME OFFICE

- Turn off your computer when not in use. The AC adapter for a laptop and other electronic devices will continue to draw power, even when they are not being used.
- Save energy and space with a combination print, fax, copy, scan multi-function device.
- Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point for electronics, televisions, video games and computers when not in use.
- Enable power management features on your home computer and monitor.
- Look for cordless phones that feature switch-mode power supplies and "smart" chargers for added energy savings.

LAUNDRY ROOM

- Only run the washer and dryer when they are fully loaded.
- When using your dryer, separate heavy cottons (like towels) from lighter weight clothes and don't over dry clothing.
- Wash clothes in cold water when possible and always use the cold water rinse cycle.
- Clean the lint filter before drying each load. Also, clean the dryer drum periodically to remove lint.