

Solutions for High Electrical Usage (Summer)

Fans

Fans are an efficient way to circulate air through a home and people find that moving air is actually more comfortable than still air. Fans are inexpensive and good energy-savers, especially when compared to using air conditioning (A/C).

Cost \$10+

Recommendation > [Green Heart Guide – Materials & Supplies](#)

Whole House Fan

Whole house fans are effective at cooling a home anytime outdoor air temperature is cooler than inside your home. Cool air is brought into the attic or a room and eliminates the warm air, lowering indoor temperatures and lessening the need for A/C.

Cost \$500 to \$1500

Payback > 2 to 5 years

Recommendation > [Green Heart Guide – Materials & Supplies](#)

Evaporative (swamp) Cooler

Used mostly in hot, dry regions, swamp coolers are a great solution. Mounted on a roof, in a window or on the ground, they draw in outside air and pass it over water. The water cools the air and the air is then moved into the home. Simple system can cost about half as much as A/C units and are four to eight times more efficient. For top of the line performance including thermostatic controls and variable speed fans that are quieter and use less energy the costs may be over \$2000 but are still less than Air-Conditioning units with comparable performance features.

You can save up to 70% on the cost of energy to cool your home with this kind of system.

Cost \$700 to \$2500

Payback > 3 to 12 years (compared to Air-Conditioning)

Recommendation > [Green Heart Guide – Heating & Cooling](#)

Landscaping

An often overlooked option is to shade your home with trees, shrubs or vines. Well shaded homes can substantially decrease the amount of A/C needed. Trees can reduce air temperatures by as much as nine degrees and vines can be used to grow on overhangs to create an effective and attractive source of shade that can also let in more light during winter months when the leaves fall off.

Cost \$50+

Recommendation > [Green Heart Guide – Landscaping/Xeriscaping/Plants](#)

Sun Screens

Installed on the outside of a home during the summer months, they can absorb 65% of the solar heat before it reaches a window. They are a low cost option and can be taken down during the seasons when more sunlight is wanted.

Cost \$50+ per screen

Recommendation > [Green Heart Guide – Window Coverings & Shades](#)

Window Film

Installed on the interior of a window, film can block up to 50% of the solar heat. It will repel heat, reduce glare, fading, and block sunlight. Before installing think about the sun in all seasons; blocked sunlight during the summer may be wanted in the winter to help heat your home.

Cost \$3 to \$12 per square foot

Payback > 1 to 3 years

Recommendation > [Green Heart Guide – Materials & Supplies](#)