

McKean County Association of Realtors
30 Fraley Street
Kane, PA 16735

August 18, 2017

Tips to Help Save on Energy Costs

MCKEAN COUNTY – Energy efficiency is an important feature many buyers consider when looking at a new home. There are simple changes to make sure a house is as energy efficient as possible.

“A buyer might want to check to see if an energy audit was performed on the house,” said Mary Brzenski, president of the McKean County Association of Realtors. “If one hasn’t been conducted, they can request one during the home inspection.”

There are other cost-effective steps to improve energy efficiency:

- Caulk and seal around entries into the house. Take the time to caulk and seal around windows, doors, plumbing lines and electrical wires. It takes time, but the benefits are worth it.
- Replace lighting with CFLs or LEDs. Old incandescent light bulbs use much more electricity and often homeowners forget to change a few of the lights in the house.
- Program the thermostat. Many homeowners don’t take advantage of their programmable thermostats. Using the programmable feature ensures the furnace isn’t heating the house while they’re gone.
- Check the temperature on the water heater. Homeowners can lower the temperature to 120 degrees on a tank water heater and it will maintain a certain amount of hot water throughout the day.

“Taking these few steps will help homeowners save money on energy costs,” Brzenski said. “The other option is to consider ways to reduce the electricity used by appliances. Running the washer, dryer, and dishwasher early in the morning or later in the evening reduces the cost. If you have the money, replacing inefficient older appliances is also an option.”

“While these changes aren’t as exciting as other home improvements, they do help reduce your costs,” she added.

– 30 –

The McKean County Association of Realtors is the voice for real estate in McKean County.