

## You're Gonna Love Green Publications

Apartments & Condominiums  
Eco-Landscaping  
Edmonton's Green Home Guide  
Edmonton's Green Living Guide (coming soon!)

To download these publications, visit [www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen](http://www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen).

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# YOU'RE GONNA LOVE GREEN

## Apartments & Condominiums



## Energy-Saving Tips When Looking for a New Home

### The Neighbourhood

- Check out the location: How walkable is the community? Is there easy access to public transit? Are there grocery stores nearby?

### The Building

- Find out how heat is supplied to the unit. Hot water radiators and in-floor radiant heating are more efficient than electric baseboard heaters. Ask how efficient the boiler is and about its service record.
- Ask to what temperature the parking garage is heated. Many underground garages are heated more than necessary.
- Find out what types of insulation are used in the building. The higher the R-value (thermal resistance), the better the insulation factor.
- Ask about the ER-value (energy rating) of the windows. The higher the number, the better the energy efficiency.
- Look for high-efficiency lighting – compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) or light emitting diodes (LEDs) – in common areas.
- When reviewing condo documents, look for evidence that the condo board is making energy-saving improvements (e.g. sealing air leaks, changing boiler filters regularly).
- Ask if there are any plans to upgrade the unit or the building, and whether this will be done with the environment in mind.
- Ask if any solar hot water or photovoltaic (PV) systems have been installed in the building, or if they purchase any green power.

### The Suite

- Find out how you will be charged for utilities. Individual unit meters will help save money; you'll pay less if you use less.
- If appliances are included, check to see if they are Energy Star® rated.
- Find out who is responsible for locating and sealing air leaks.
- Ask yourself if you really need that extra bedroom. Smaller homes typically mean smaller ecological footprints.

### The Extras

- Find out if the building has a system for recycling and composting.
- Ask if there is a secure bike area, and see if it's large enough to accommodate all those who would use it.
- Find out if green landscaping techniques are being used – for example, drip irrigation systems on a timer and chemical-free treatments.
- If there's a pool, find out if the temperature is turned down in the summer, or if thermal blankets are placed over the pool at night.
- If there's a fitness room, ask if any of the equipment is energy efficient.

For a more detailed checklist, visit [www.edmonton.ca/GreenHomeGuide](http://www.edmonton.ca/GreenHomeGuide) and click on Checklists.

City of Edmonton – Environment

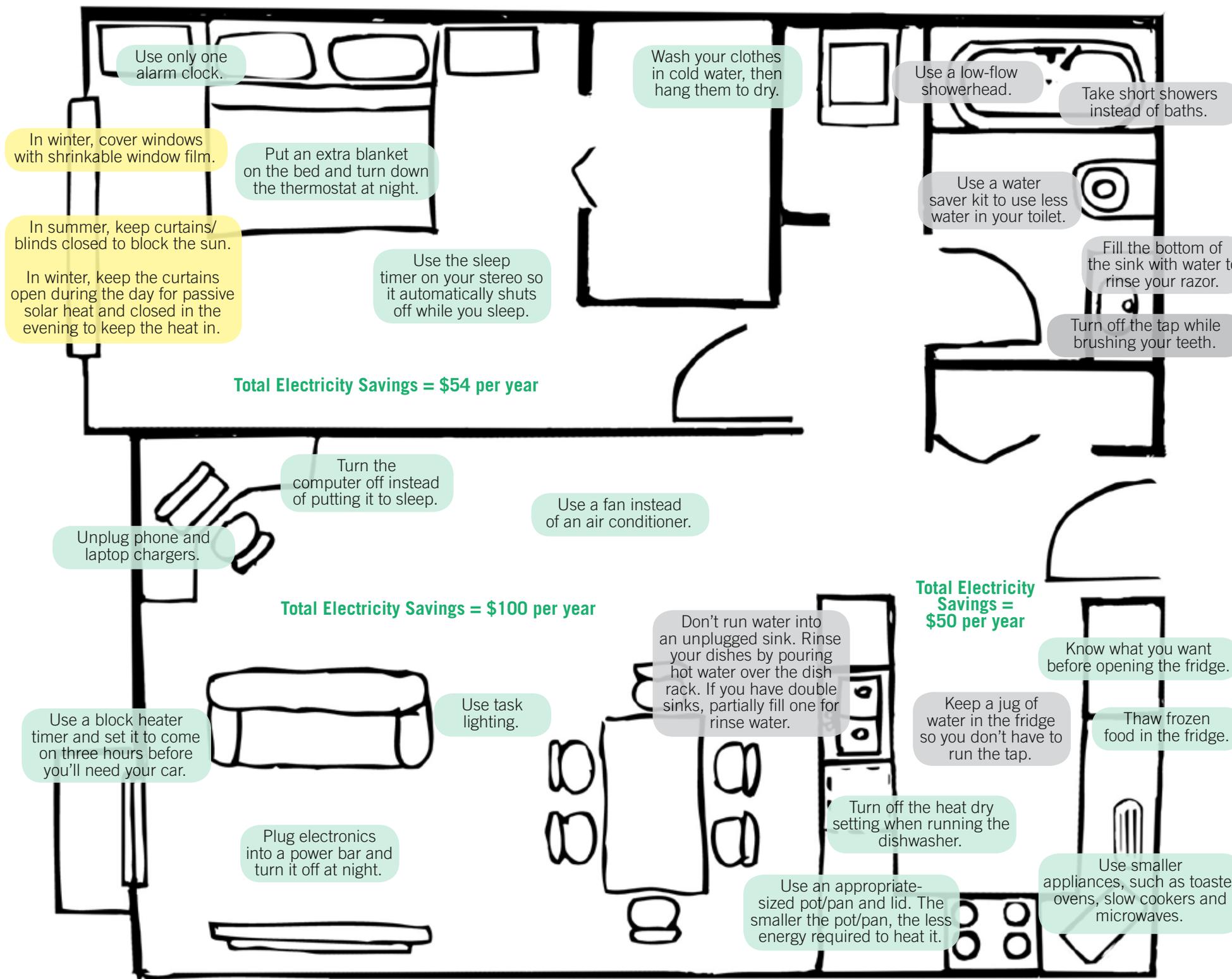
Phone: 311 (in Edmonton) / 780-442-5311 (outside Edmonton)

Website: [www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen](http://www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen)

Take Action on Climate Change

[www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen](http://www.edmonton.ca/LoveGreen)





## Other Energy-Saving Tips For Your Home

- Replace your light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) or light emitting diodes (LEDs). They use less energy and last longer than incandescent and halogen bulbs.
- Use an aerator on your faucets to reduce water use while maintaining pressure.
- Turn off the lights when you leave the room.
- Make sure you have a full load before running the clothes washer or dishwasher.
- Use an area rug where the floors are cold.

## Useful Websites

- **Green Living Guide**  
[www.edmonton.ca/GreenLivingGuide](http://www.edmonton.ca/GreenLivingGuide)  
 Tips and information on how to green your everyday life at home, work and in the community.
- **Energy Star**  
[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)  
 What to look for when buying appliances, as well as podcasts showing easy ways to make your home more energy efficient.
- **Natural Resources Canada**  
[www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency)  
 Tips and benefits of energy efficiency.
- **Walkability**  
[www.walkscore.com](http://www.walkscore.com)  
 Find out how walkable your address is.

Electricity Tips  
 Heating Tips  
 Water Tips