

### Coffee time trivia question – No. 3

What change would have most impact on your energy bill?

- a) Lower your heating by 2°C
- b) Unplug unused electronics
- c) Hang dry your laundry
- d) Take shorter showers (1 min less)

Correct Answer: A)

You can save up to **72\$** per year, if you reduce the number on your **thermostat by 2°C**. Of course 5°C would result in an even higher saving (up to 10%). Nearly 60% of the energy Canadians are using, is being used for heating.

However, doing all of the other things will be good for your energy bill, too:

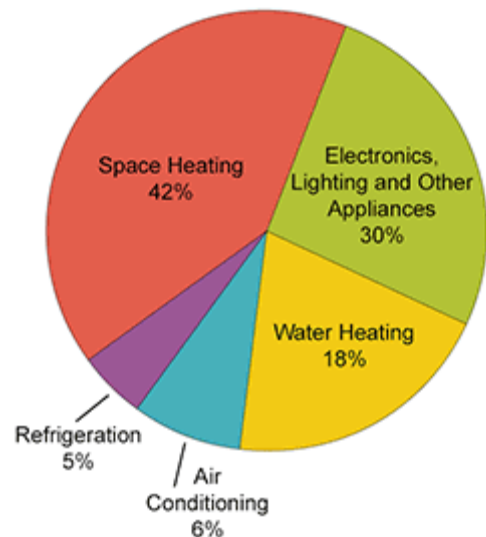
If you **unplug unused electronics**, you can save **50\$** per year. Standby power can account for 10% of an average household's annual electricity use.

If you **take shorter showers**, you can save a lot. Hot water is expensive. If two people in your home cut their shower time by a minute each, you could **save \$30** over a year.

If you hang **dry your laundry**, you could save **\$47 a year**. This is assuming, you do eight loads of laundry a week and use your clothesline for 50% of those clothes.

For a full and very useful list, check out the BC hydro link below.

**How Energy Is Used in Homes (2009)\***



\* 2009 is the most recent year for which data are available.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS) 2009*.

References:

- 1) [https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/savings-and-rebates/everyday-electricity-saving-tips.html?WT.mc\\_id=rd\\_21tips](https://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/savings-and-rebates/everyday-electricity-saving-tips.html?WT.mc_id=rd_21tips)
- 2) <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/reduce-your-carbon-footprint/reduce-home-heating-and-electricity-use-by-10/>
- 3) <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-526-s/2010001/part-partie1-eng.htm>