

a. What are five relatively simple and inexpensive things, as described in the article, people can do to make their homes more energy efficient?

1. Make sure to unplug things like TVs and video game stations so that they don't suck in power while they're off.
2. Put something in the toilet cistern so that it doesn't use as much water when you flush.
3. Install an ultra-low-flow shower head, so that you aren't blasting more water than you need down the drain. Or just take shorter showers.
4. Install a gray-water system.
5. Buy a programmable thermostat, so that you can make turn down at night after you go to bed. Or just remember to turn it down.

b. How does each suggested change actually conserve energy?

They make sure you're using less water and less power. They also get you thinking, so that you can remember to turn off the lights when you go out of the room.

c. What does the term "vampire load" mean?

That term is used to describe an object that sucks power even when it isn't on; it's always best to unplug these things when you are done with them.

d. How does a gray-water system work?

A gray-water system collects soapy water and diverts it to the toilet. Instead of clean water, you flush with soapy water.

e. Is your family already using any of these suggestions in your home? If so, which ones? If not, which one(s) would be the most realistic for your family to adopt?

We try to unplug things when we are done with them. But the most important thing is just remembering to turn stuff, especially lights, off when you are done with them.