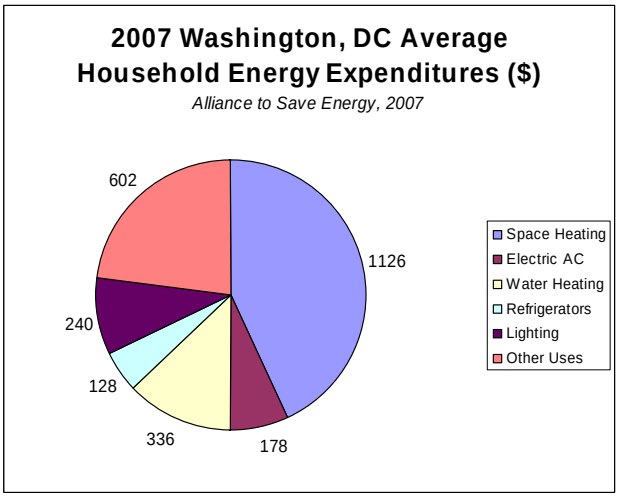
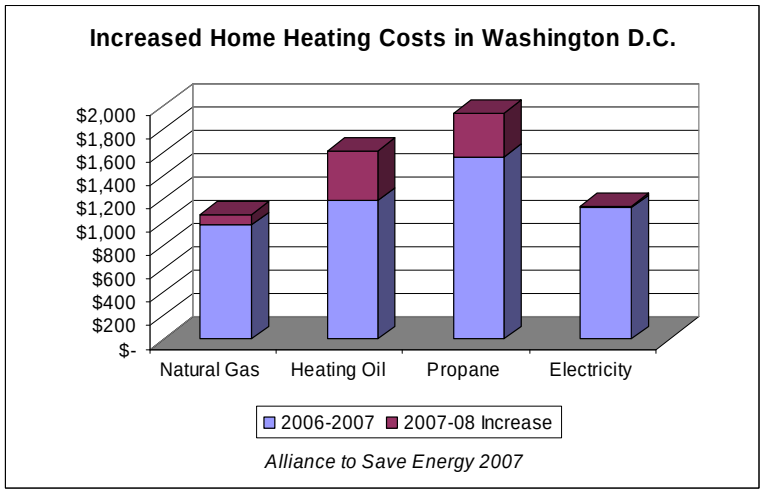
Washington, D.C. Energy Costs to Jump This Winter:
Energy and Money Saving Tips for Consumers[i]

Household Energy





- About 40 percent of Washington, D.C. residents' energy bill goes to heat their homes.

- The average energy bills for Washington, D.C. homes heated with natural gas will increase by about $90. Average energy bills for homes heated with heating oil will go up about $425. Propane-heated homes will see their bills rise by about $380, while electric heating costs will rise by about $15.

- Washington, D.C. households are projected to spend about $1,880 on gasoline costs in 2007, about $115 (seven percent) more than they did in 2006.

Reducing Home Heating Costs

- Turn down the thermostat. In Washington, D.C., lowering it by just 1 degree can reduce heating energy costs by 4% – between $45 and $80, depending on the fuel used to heat the home.

- Plug leaks – Gaps between windows and doors may be small, but they can collectively add up to big energy losses. Plugging these leaks with caulk or other materials is the first action homeowners should take to combat high heating fuel costs. By sealing those leaks and installing proper insulation, especially in the attic and crawl spaces, Washington, D.C. households can reduce home heating costs by up to $215-$390 per year, depending on the fuel used.

- Heat people and pets, not empty space – about 80% of space is usually not being used at any given time. Closing vents in unoccupied rooms and using small space heaters to heat occupied areas can save a significant amount of energy – and money.

- Set the hot water heater at 130 degrees. Washing clothes in cold water can save Washington, D.C. households up to $85 a year.

- A programmable thermostat costs about $100 – but if used properly, it can save Washington, D.C. households up to $105-$195 a year on home heating bills.

Other Energy-Saving Tips

- By replacing their four most used bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, Washington, D.C. households can save about $150 over the lifetime of the bulbs.

Incandescent vs. Compact Fluorescent Bulbs

Bulb type	60W Incandescent	13W Compact Fluorescent
Purchase price ($)	0.75	3.50
Life of the bulb	750 hours	6,000 hours
Number of hours burned per day	3 hours	3 hours
Number of bulbs needed over five and a half years	8	1
Total cost of bulbs ($)	6.00	3.50
Lumens	850	800
Total cost of electricity over five and a half years ($)	44.92	9.73
Total cost over five and a half years ($)	50.92	13.23
Total savings with a compact fluorescent bulb ($)	37.69	
Total savings with four compact fluorescent bulbs ($)	**150.76**	

- When choosing a new heating and cooling system, windows, or appliances, consumers should purchase models with the ENERGY STAR label.

- Vehicle fuel economy can be improved with a few simple measures: tuning the engine (4%), using the recommended grade of motor oil (1-2%), cleaning or replacing air filters (up to 10%), keeping tires properly inflated (up to 3%), and obeying the speed limit (7-23%).

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[i] Statistics compiled by the Alliance to Save Energy using data from the Department of Energy; US Census Bureau; Environmental Protection Agency; Bureau of Transportation Statistics; National Climatic Data Center; Fueleconomy.gov; Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association; Proctor & Gamble.