



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AFFAIRS

WORKING FROM HOME ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

INTRODUCTION

Many institutions in Malawi have adopted a 'Work from home' strategy in order to continue providing services amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Working from home has its environmental benefits, from reducing greenhouse gases emission through reduction of road congestion to cutting down on office building energy consumption, cutting down on transport costs etc, however, there is a slight shift on energy bills to homes and there is a need to minimise these home energy bills. Below are some of the simple tips for consideration;

1. Keep the Curtains Open

Avoid wasting energy on desk lamps or



overhead lights if you're getting enough natural light. Choose the brightest room in the house in which to work, and keep the curtains open to let the light pour in. It can brighten both the room and possibly your productivity since natural light is known to boost one's mood.

2. Unplug Idle Gadgets

Productivity is highest when you're not distracted, and that goes for blinking lights, ringing phones, and blaring television sets. When working from home, unplug everything you're



not using right then for work, including printers, gadget chargers, extra computers or monitors and so on. You'll cut down on vampire energy wasted on wall lumps, energy sapped by electronics on standby, or electricity sucked up by electronics you aren't really focused on.

3. Use Energy Efficient Equipment

Various equipment has different energy efficiency rating; it is advisable for users to look for most efficient equipment.

The Government promotes the use of energy saving bulbs like the Compact Florescent Lights (CFL) and Light Emitting Diode (LED) as opposed to use of incandescent bulbs.



4. Set Up Your Computer for Energy Savings

Computers, if properly set, can reduce energy consumption. Even small changes to the brightness of your monitor will help extend your battery life. When you extend your computer's battery life, you will find yourself plugging into an electrical outlet less often thereby saving energy and reducing electricity bill.

5. Turn off the lights in the rooms you're not using

Make sure lights in rooms that are not in use are always off. Only switch on lights in the rooms that are in use if opening of curtains does not provide enough light.

6. Minimise Use of thermostat Devices

For cold season, minimise use of electric heaters by wearing warm clothes and closing windows where appropriate and instead of using the air conditioner in warmer months, try opening a window. Only use thermostat devices when necessary.

7. Turn off your Computer after use for the day

If you are done working on the computer for the days and know you won't be on your

computer again until the next day, turn it off. The same goes for printers or any devices.

8. Use Efficient Cooking Energy

Recently the Government removed some taxes on Gas and Solar equipment. It is advisable for households to shift from using electricity for boiling water and cooking to use of Solar for water heating and Gas for cooking.



Gas stove



Solar Geyser

CONCLUSION

Residential power use is likely to rise as people around the country shift to working from home. Being mindful of your household's energy consumption and adopting some of the above advice will ensure keeping your power bill down while working from home and also redirecting the saved power to other productive uses.

SUMMARY OF KEY ENERGY SAVING

FORM OF ENERGY	MINIMISE BY USING	OPTIMIZE EFFICIENCY
Heating	<i>Thermal Insulation/Passive Design</i>	<i>Efficient Equipment</i>
Cooling	<i>Thermal Insulation/Passive Design</i>	<i>Efficient Equipment</i>
Hot water	<i>Low Flow</i>	<i>Solar Water Heater</i>
Lighting	<i>Natural</i>	<i>LED/Energy Saving</i>
Equipment	<i>Energy Label</i>	<i>Behaviour</i>

Visit www.energy.gov.mw for more energy related information or contact

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