



Burgess-Shadbush  
**NATURE CENTER**  
 Charter Township of Shelby

# Energy Conservation

## Why conserve energy?

Conserving energy can help reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, which can harm our health.

### Saving energy saves money, too.

From family homes to large-scale factories, energy efficiency offers governments, businesses, and households a range of ways to reduce power bills by curbing carbon emissions and saving money at the same time.

When a business or household lowers the money it spends on energy costs, it can be spent elsewhere in the economy, resulting in additional jobs.



The U.S. gets 81 percent of its energy through fossil fuels. **Fossil fuels** are buried combustible geologic deposits formed from decayed plants and animals that have been converted to crude oil, coal, natural gas, or heavy oils by exposure to heat and pressure in the Earth's crust over hundreds of millions of years.

Because these fuels take hundreds of millions of years to form, they are non-renewable resources and will eventually run out.



Energy use and conservation includes electrical energy as well as fuels burned in our vehicles and for heating.

We know recycling is good because it keeps garbage from the landfill, but it also saves energy. Oil is used to make plastics, paints, tires, and many other products. Energy is also used to power the machines that make these goods.

**Companies that make new products from recycled material use 30 percent less energy because they don't have to process the raw materials from scratch.**

