

The Governor has [declared a state of emergency](#) in connection with the extreme heat and impacts on electricity. The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) issued a [statewide Flex Alert](#) calling for voluntary electricity conservation from 3 PM to 9 PM Saturday, September 5 through Monday, September 7 to help reduce power demands within California while prioritizing public health and safety. Without conservation, the state will likely experience additional rolling system outages.

1. Adjust Your Thermostat
  - a. During peak hours or when you are not home, remember to set your thermostat at 78° (degrees) or higher. Setting your air conditioner 5 degrees higher can save up to 20 percent on cooling costs.
  - b. Pre-cool your home by running air conditioning at 72 degrees in the early part of the day (when it is more efficient) then turn your system to 78 degrees or higher during the hottest part of the day when demand is the highest.
  - c. Use smart or programmable features to help maintain energy savings when you're not home.
2. Close Windows and Doors
  - a. Keep windows and doors closed to prevent the loss of cooled or heated air.
  - b. On summer nights, open windows to let cooler air in when safe. In the morning before the day starts to heat up, close windows and blinds to keep warm air out.
  - c. Tilt blinds up and close drapes and shades on windows that receive direct sunlight.
3. Smart Energy Use
  - a. Turn off unnecessary lighting and use task or desktop lamps with LEDs instead of overhead lights.
  - b. Enable "power management" on all computers and turn off when not in use.
  - c. Unplug phone charges, power strips (those without a switch) and other equipment when not in use. Taken together, these small items can use as much power as your refrigerator.
4. Major Appliance Use
  - a. Postpone using major appliances like the oven, dishwasher, clothes washer, and dryer until cooler times of the day to avoid heating up your home.
  - b. Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when full. Wait until after 9 p.m. to use these and other major appliances.
  - c. When possible, wash clothes in cold water. About 90 percent of the energy used in a clothes washer goes to water heating.
5. Clean or Replace Your Filters
  - a. A dirty filter forces your air conditioner and furnace to work harder, wasting money, using more energy or natural gas.
6. Adjust Your Water Heater
  - a. Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees or the "normal" setting. Water heating accounts for about 13 percent of home energy costs.

**Links to key statements and authorities**

Governor Newsom's proclamation is below:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9.3.20-Extreme-Heat-Event-Proclamation.pdf>

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) Flex Alert is below:

<http://www.caiso.com/Documents/FlexAlertIssued-WeekendCalling-EnergyConservation.pdf>