

Average household reduction of CO2 emissions: 214 pounds a year

How

Consult your water heater owner's manual for instructions on how to operate the thermostat. Turn down the thermostat, then check the water temperature with a thermometer at the tap farthest from the water heater. Thermostat dials are often inaccurate. Several adjustments may be necessary before you get the right temperature.

Why

Simply lowering the thermostat setting on your water heater is another easy way to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. For each 10 degree Fahrenheit reduction in water temperature, you can save between three to five percent in energy costs. Reducing your water temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes. This helps your water heater last longer and operate at its maximum efficiency.