Take Control & Save®

A Cooperative Effort for Energy Efficiency

www.TakeControlAndSave.coop

Advanced thermostats

What is an advanced thermostat?

An advanced thermostat, also referred to as a smart or connected thermostat, can give you more control over the way your home uses energy, both at home and away. A smart thermostat connects to your home's Wi-Fi network. After installation, you input the basics of your schedule and desired temperatures. Over time, as you change the settings, it learns your schedule and adjusts to reduce your energy use. Many have apps so you can receive updates, remotely control temperatures and monitor energy use. You can see how much you are spending on heating or cooling costs, tweak the programming to save money and see the results immediately.

Most smart thermostats also show you how effective your heating and cooling system is by showing the length of time it takes to make a requested temperature change. This typically discourages people from turning a thermostat way down to "cool the house faster," which does not work. Another unique feature of many smart thermostats is geofencing. This allows your smart thermostat to know when you're on the way home and automatically adjusts your home's temperature to your liking.

If you have a ground-source heat pump, consider hiring a contractor to install the smart thermostat. This will ensure it is properly programmed to work with your heat pump to achieve maximum savings.

Investment in savings and convenience

For the average American household, almost half of the annual energy bill goes to heating and cooling, which adds up to more than $900 a year.[1] Being smart about how you control your temperature settings will help you save money and stay comfortable in your home. The average cost of a smart thermostat is $150 to $250, before possible rebates. Most popular brands indicate the homeowner can choose to install the thermostat, thus saving on the install costs. However, if you are not comfortable doing the installation yourself, or have an advanced heating and cooling system, you may want to hire a professional.

Consider that some homeowners purchase a smart thermostat for more than just the energy savings alone. For many, the allure also includes better control over scheduling, convenience, ease of use and features such as alerts and on-unit outdoor temperature displays.

[1]Source: ENERGYSTAR.gov

Purchase tips

Each brand uses slightly different features to help homeowners save energy. Ultimately, the brand you purchase should depend on what is right for you, so you need to do your research. Read and compare reviews online and recommendations from friends, neighbors and your local electric cooperative. Make sure the thermostat is compatible with your heating and cooling system. Check the level of security for the brand you are interested in. Compare the features of each to ensure you are getting exactly what you expect.

It is recommended to purchase a thermostat that has the ENERGY STAR label. Thermostats with the ENERGY STAR label have been independently certified, based on actual field data, to deliver energy savings.

Common ENERGY STAR certified smart thermostat features include:

- ***Remote Control:*** Using your smartphone, you can adjust the temperature in your home from anywhere with an internet connection.
- ***Geofencing:*** This feature allows your thermostat to detect when you've left for the day to 'set back' your heating and cooling system and save money on your heating or cooling bill. If you're on the way home, the thermostat can automatically adjust the temperature to ensure you arrive to a comfortable home.
- ***Learning temperature preferences:*** Certain ENERGY STAR certified smart thermostats can learn your preferences automatically and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving temperatures when you are asleep or away.
- ***Over-the-Air Updates:*** Your thermostat may update its software periodically to ensure it uses the latest algorithms and energy-saving features available.

Take Control & Save on your energy costs!

Be sure to contact your local electric cooperative prior to purchasing a smart thermostat, as they may offer ***a rebate of up to $50*** on ENERGY STAR qualified models.

For more energy saving ideas, visit www.TakeControlAndSave.coop.

Smart savings

Many popular smart thermostat brands claim 10-15 percent savings on a homeowner's heating and cooling costs. Your actual savings may vary based on some key factors:

Your current energy use: If you use a lot of energy keeping a consistent temperature in your home, you will likely see a reduction in your energy use by letting a smart thermostat manage your heating and cooling.

Your home: A large home costs more to heat and cool than a smaller one, and a home that has a lot of air leakage costs more than one that is tightly sealed. The bottom line: the less you run your heating and cooling system, the longer it will take to break even on the cost of a smart thermostat. However, making your home more energy-efficient is always a good idea!

Your heating and cooling system: The efficiency of your heating and cooling system, and the maintenance habits make a difference in how often and how long your system runs, too.

Did you know?

If everyone used an ENERGY STAR certified smart thermostat, we would save 56 trillion BTUs of energy, which would save $740 million each year.[1]

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[1]Source: ENERGYSTAR.gov