

EXPERT ADVICE

FROM CEO TO RESIDENTS

Sometimes simple practices are the best way to wipe out waste, and save a few dirhams, too. All you need to do is turn it into a habit.

Deepak Babani, CEO of electronic goods distributor Eros Group, has made it his mission, as well as training the company's staff, to educate residents in the UAE on the best ways to conserve energy while using items such as refrigerators and washing machines.

Babani said: "Climate change is the result of increased volumes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced by human activity... by being more energy efficient at home you can reduce these emissions."

Babani has a few tips for residents on ways to reduce carbon dioxide emission, conserve energy, and save money.

▪ **Air-conditioner:**

Cleaning the filters and regularly maintaining the machine reduces the energy used by five per cent, prevents release of up to 80 kilograms (kg) of carbon dioxide and saves Dh500 of your electricity bill every year.

Insulating walls, especially in areas around doors and windows can save up to 30 per cent of home cooling bills and one ton of carbon dioxide per year.

Also, closing the doors of unused rooms traps cool air in the room you are in, requiring less energy to cool the place.

▪ **Refrigerators:**

Do not fill the refrigerator with food as this would block cold air from circulating freely and prevent the refrigerator from working efficiently.

If going on a long vacation, be sure to either switch off the refrigerator or set the thermostat to a minimum if you have a lot of food.



SUPPLIED PICTURE

CEO of Eros Group Deepak Babani

"Small practices will shrink your carbon footprint and help fight global warming."

If you have an old refrigerator, replace it with a new one, as they would have a tighter insulation, precise temperature controls and better defrosting mechanism. Making the switch would save enough energy to light a one bedroom apartment for four months.

▪ **Washing machine/ Dishwasher:**

For each two loads of washing that you can fit into one, you save 450 grams of carbon. So, assuming this practice is followed and six full loads in total are done per week, 136kg of carbon footprint is saved every year.

One of the most innovative energy-saving products created – the drying rack

– would save more than 450kg of carbon footprint per year.

Ensure your dishwasher is full before turning it on, as this would save energy and water. Air drying cutlery, instead of using the heat of the drying cycle in the dishwasher, reduces the electricity used by 20 per cent.

▪ **Other appliances:**

Reducing the water heater thermostat to less than 48 degrees Celsius saves more than 225kg of carbon dioxide a year.

Also, low-flow showerheads use less hot water, which saves a further 136kg of carbon dioxide per year.

Turn off electricity from the wall socket when the appliance is not in use, as it would still consume energy even when it is turned off.

– Mohammad Jihad