



Energy efficient: Tom Tynan and Paula Engel present energy-saving projects on their TV show, "Our House," seen 7 a.m. Sundays on WDIV-TV Channel 4.

SAVING ENERGY IS YEAR-ROUND TASK

STORY BY MARY KLEMIC • AT HOME EDITOR

Spring cleaning is a special time to get things around the house in shape, but energy saving knows every season. It's a daily thing, says home energy-efficiency expert Tom Tynan, co-host of "Our House" 7 a.m. Sundays on WDIV-TV.

"It's like your diet, it's your lifestyle," Tynan said recently when he was in the area on his way to the International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show at the Cobo Convention Center.

"Nowadays the majority of our customers are new homeowners where they're looking to improve (energy efficiency)," said John Finley, president of Diversified Energy Control Ltd. in Canton. "They've got a lot bigger homes now, looking to improve energy efficiency."

On "Our House," Tynan and co-host Paula Engel focus on ways to save energy and help the environment. The tips can help homeowners save money as well. The program scheduled to air April 21 features a visit to the White House. It will show ways the White House can become more energy efficient. Saving energy in the home doesn't have to mean a massive renovation project.

Education can help. "You see things all over the house," said Tynan, who with a smile calls himself "the real Tim Taylor" after the Tim Allen character on TV's "Home Improvement." For example, compact fluorescent light bulbs are meant to last about 10 times longer than bulbs now being used. But these new bulbs should be put in fixtures kept on for at least four hours at a time, not where they will be turned on and off regularly. Using ceiling fans properly can save money on your electric bill. In the summer, set the ceiling fan on medium speed and for blowing down. In the winter, put the fan on low speed and reverse it. This circulates the air, mixing cool air with the hot air that rises. Most fireplaces pull the heat out of the room, as heat rises and goes right up the chimney. New fireplaces are designed to absorb the heat from the fireplace and run it through air ducts from the flue in the chimney. Programmable thermostats can be set to go off when you leave for

work and come on shortly before you return home. Your refrigerator should be set around 42 degrees, and your freezer between 0 and 5 degrees. A \$2 thermometer attached to the inside back wall of your refrigerator monitors the temperature. It costs around \$35 to weatherstrip your door; a towel under the door helps keep out the cold. Making your windows energy efficient can lead to other benefits, Finley said. Window films provide protection against ultraviolet rays and cut out glare on TV screens and computer windows. The main benefit is energy saving and comfort, Finley said. An energy survey or analysis can pinpoint trouble areas.

COMMUNITIES OFFER HEAP OF HELP

OK, you've done your spring cleaning, and you have assembled an assortment of items you no longer need or want.

What to do with them? A garage sale is one option. A sampling of area communities shows that some have certain requirements concerning garage sales.

In Beverly Hills, garage sale signs can be no larger than two square feet, and the total area of all signs can't be more than four square feet. They have to be on residential premises and displayed no more than four days in any 90-day period.

Franklin residents must have permits. Garage sale signs can't go on city property in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Bechtel doesn't require permits or have rules, but residents must stick to normal sign laws and can't have perpetual garage sales. Oakland Township residents also don't have to get a permit and can't have perpetual sales.

In Rochester Hills, the only garage sale ordinance focuses on signs. The signs can be posted at the house hosting the sale and on other private sites if the property owners approve, but not on public property. A total of two signs is allowed, each not bigger than six square feet total and not more than four feet tall. They can't be erected for more than 12 days a year per sale location.

In Troy, residents may have garage sales any time as long as they are selling their items, not outside merchandise. They may put up signs on their own property at any time during the sale. Directional signs, with dates and location clearly marked, can go on other private property Friday, Saturday and Sunday with the owner's permission. Signs can't be placed on city property or in the rights of way between sidewalk and curb. The size limit for all signs is six square feet.

Those larger pieces you just want to throw away may require special handling. Again, some communities have requirements for these.

Major appliances and large metal items in Beverly Hills may be scheduled for Wednesday pickups by calling (810) 393-0208 in advance. Gasoline and oil should be drained from small motors and LP tanks removed from barbecue grills. Carpeting is picked up as trash but must be cut, rolled and tied in five-foot lengths not to exceed 60 pounds. Carpeting shouldn't be put out if it is raining.

Lincoln is handled the same as carpeting unless it is attached to a subfloor, then it must be cut in two-by-two-foot squares and tied in 60-pound bundles.

Bingham Farms schedules two free special collection days: one in the fall and one in the summer, for large pieces. Accepted items are appliances, furniture, water heaters, small tree stumps and a maximum of two tires. Brush, tree branches and construction materials must be bundled in lengths not exceeding four feet. Bolls of carpet and linoleum must be tied together, the width the length not exceeding four feet. All pieces must be brought out to the edge of driveways. Items that aren't accepted include hazardous wastes, automotive parts and loose gravel. The next free pickup is scheduled for June. Car Trucking will collect big items any time for a fee.

Farmington residents must cut carpeting into four-foot lengths and roll and tie them. Farmington picks up such items as furniture, washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, mattresses, box springs and water heaters; there is no fee and no need to call ahead. Doors must be removed from refrigerators and freezers. Also in Farmington, special pickups may be arranged with Waste

Management in Southfield (phone (810) 357-0100) for bricks and stones, windows, construction wood and debris and drywall and paneling; a fee is charged. Latex paint must be dried up (dirt or killy litter can be added to quicken the process). Latex paint can lids are to be placed in the rubbish and the empty can placed next to the rubbish. The city has Household Hazardous Waste Day once a year, when such materials as oil-based paint, paint thinner, pesticides and herbicides are collected. The proposed Household Hazardous Waste Day for 1996 is Saturday, May 11. Franklin calls Latidale to arrange collection of large pieces.

In Rochester, bulky items (including sofas, chairs and refrigerators) are picked up weekly. If it isn't air conditioner and refrigerator collection for \$25 can be scheduled for Monday or Friday. Call the Department of Public Works at (810) 651-9061 for arrangements.

Residents of Rochester Hills and Oakland Township contract privately for bulky trash removal. Troy residents can put out furniture, appliances and other large items with their regular weekly trash pickup.

Make checklist before making repairs

A long winter can do a lot of damage to a house. Spring is the time to take inventory and make repairs.

Karen Eggen, president of Tri-County Building Inspectors Inc. in Waterford, provides a handy checklist of things to look for during your spring inventory.

- Check foundation walls, retaining walls, walks, patios and driveways for cracks, heaving and crumbling.
 - Check chimneys for deteriorated caps, missing caps, missing bricks and mortar.
 - Check roof and gutters, check for missing, damaged or blistered shingles. Check gutters for backing, damaged downspouts or leaders and broken hangers or straps.
 - Check flashing around roof stacks, vents, skylights and chimneys.
 - Check vents, chimneys and louvers for birds' nests, squirrels or insects.
 - Check fascia for paint flaking, leakage or decay.
 - Check exterior or masonry walls for cracks and broken mortar.
 - Check exterior or masonry walls for cracks and broken mortar.
 - Cut back and trim shrubs against side walls.
 - Be sure to open vents.
- Doing these simple checks will allow you to spot a problem early and avoid a bigger problem in the future.