

Wi-Fi and Smart Thermostats

Take control of your energy use today.

It happens to all of us: We rush out the door in the morning, only to realize hours later that we forgot to turn our heat down or the A/C off. Thought you were home free with a standard programmable thermostat? Not so fast. What about the days when you're running late, or forgot about that evening commitment? Are you sure you've even programmed your thermostat correctly? Running the heat or A/C excessively is a costly mistake of far too many homeowners.



Conventional thermostats no longer do the trick

Many homeowners continue to use basic, non-programmable thermostats, while some have upgraded to more effective programmable models. Both of these thermostats provide limited functionality—often resulting in wasted energy used to heat or cool unoccupied spaces.

Non-programmable thermostats

Basic, non-programmable thermostats are the simplest controllers for home heating and cooling systems. Operation is limited to turning a dial or pressing a button to set the temperature—and it stays there until someone physically makes another adjustment.

This type of thermostat is efficient only if you always remember to adjust the setting when you go to sleep or leave the house. Most people forget to raise or lower the temperature at these critical times, wasting energy and paying unnecessarily high heating and cooling bills.

Standard programmable thermostats

Standard programmable thermostats are the next step up in technology, allowing for the customization of a daily schedule with varying temperature settings. Different schedules can be set for weekdays versus weekends, and many programmable thermostats allow for a seven-day schedule.

Programmable thermostats come with their own set of challenges. They can be confusing to set up, and many homeowners program the devices incorrectly. Oftentimes, users hit the override button to temporarily change the temperature, and then forget to set it back to the program. Or, homeowners return much later than expected, while their heat or A/C kicks in at the regularly scheduled time. All of these scenarios cause temperatures to remain unnecessarily high or low for an extended period of time, wasting energy and money.

Energy-saving solutions

Thanks to advancements in technology, Wi-Fi enabled and smart thermostats provide remote, around-the-clock access to adjust our thermostats—eliminating many of the issues associated with older devices.

Wi-Fi enabled programmable thermostats

These innovative devices connect to the Internet, allowing for easy programming of the thermostat's daily schedule through a website or app accessible from a smartphone, tablet, or computer. Most importantly, you can remotely control your home's temperature 24/7—whether you're stuck at work, out shopping, or traveling across the country. Simply log in online or via the thermostat's app to adjust your home's heating and cooling settings.

With a Wi-Fi enabled programmable thermostat, gone are the days of wasting energy when you're away from home. With remote access to your thermostat, you can save energy by adjusting your settings anywhere, anytime—heating or cooling your home to a comfortable level just before your arrival.

Smart thermostats

These cutting-edge devices are the most advanced residential thermostats available. Not only do they connect to the Internet via Wi-Fi, allowing you to adjust the temperature remotely—they can actually program themselves as they “learn” your behavior patterns and desired temperatures for certain days and times during the week.

How do they work? Smart thermostats feature occupancy-sensing technology, with some models including motion sensors to detect whether or not people are inside the home. Other units feature GPS geofencing technology which can sense when a connected smartphone is within a defined geographic area. The smart thermostat essentially “observes” users’ behaviors, in turn using internal algorithms to predict when occupants will want the temperature adjusted based on past actions (thus, “learning” when you want the settings modified).



Cash Incentives Available

Receive a **\$75 cash incentive** from the Energy Optimization program toward the purchase of a qualified Wi-Fi enabled or smart occupancy-sensing thermostat.

Learn More

Visit michigan-energy.org or call us at **877.296.4319**.

About the Energy Optimization program

Energy Optimization programs reward residential and business customers of 13 Michigan electric utilities for making energy-saving choices. Earn cash incentives when you purchase ENERGY STAR® or energy-efficient appliances or equipment.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It is important to research various thermostats before choosing a new device. Remember, not all “Wi-Fi thermostats” are *smart* thermostats. Wi-Fi thermostats are simply programmable thermostats that can be adjusted remotely. Only true smart thermostats can sense when you are actually home and program themselves. There are currently less than a dozen true smart thermostat models on the market, but the technology is advancing quickly and more will be available in the future.

	Controls HVAC system	Programmable	Programmable online	Programs itself	Remote temp control	Incentive available
Non-programmable thermostat	✓					
Standard programmable thermostat	✓	✓				
Wi-Fi enabled programmable thermostat	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Smart thermostat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Online: michigan-energy.org

Phone: **877.296.4319**

Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply.

