

# ENERGY SAVING SUCCESS STORY

## REKHA AND PRAKASH NADKARNI

### IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Like many Fairfax County residents, Rekha and Prakash Nadkarni want to spend less money on electricity, natural gas, and water. Thanks to improvements they have made to their home since 2008, they now save over 30 percent on their utility bills each month.

You can save on energy costs and add value to your home too! For some ideas to get you started, visit us at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy/energyactionfairfax/>.

McLean Residents Rekha and Prakash Nadkarni hired a professional energy auditor to identify energy saving opportunities in their home in 2008. After reviewing the audit report's recommendations, the Nadkarnis hired a contractor to weatherize their home by sealing air leaks and adding insulation. These improvements eliminated drafts and better maintained desired room temperatures, enhancing both energy efficiency and comfort.

In addition to the weatherization upgrade, the Nadkarnis were able to implement a number of the other energy audit report recommendations themselves, including:

- Replacing incandescent bulbs with CFLs – and more recently, LEDs
- Adding timers to outdoor lights
- Using smart power strips to minimize “vampire load” from electronics that appear to be off but are still using electricity
- Reprogramming their thermostat with more precise home and away schedules to capture additional savings
- Turning down the temperature setting on their hot water heater

In total, the audit report recommendations cost less than \$5,000 to implement. Since then, the Nadkarnis have taken additional steps to make their home even more efficient, by:

- Selecting a properly sized, high efficiency HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) unit when it came time to replace their old unit
- Installing two solar tubes (similar to skylights) instead of adding light fixtures in a dark hallway
- Selecting ENERGY STAR® models whenever new appliances are purchased
- Adding motion sensors to exterior lights
- Planting trees for shading
- Using barrels to capture rainwater for outdoor watering

Overall, the Nadkarnis estimate that they are saving 30 percent on their utility bills compared to 2008.

