

## From the Agent

It is a new year, and that means new resolutions. 34% of Americans made money related resolutions in 2014. While many financial experts would recommend increased savings, investing or getting out of debt. With the electricity prices and the cost of gas going up, how about making a home energy efficiency resolution? Not only does saving money on energy bills provide homeowners the best return on your most valuable investment; your home, it also increases the comfort of your home and can earn 6% to 20% return on investment, compared to a savings account which barely yields 1% or even less. As always, you can also find more updated information on water and energy from the WET Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/marionwet](http://www.facebook.com/marionwet)).

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*The average U.S. homes are becoming 30 percent larger since 2000, but newly built homes only consume 2 percent more energy.*

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Yilin Zhuang



Energy Saving  
just ahead



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# Resolve to Save Energy in 2015

Need some ideas on resolutions to make your home more energy efficient? You may want to try one or more of the following tips for improving your home energy efficiency.

- ◆ **Install and set a programmable thermostat**  
You could save an estimated 10 percent on your heating and cooling costs every year by using a programmable thermostat, and by resetting it when your are away from home.
- ◆ **Use sunlight**  
During winter months, you can take advantage of sunlight by opening your curtains during the day to allow the sun to naturally heat your home. During warmer months, use light-colored window shades or blinds to reflect heat back outside, keeping your home cooler and more efficient. Using natural lighting effectively will also reduce the need to use artificial light.
- ◆ **Look for ENERGY STAR when purchasing electronics**  
Your home appliances and electronics account for close to 20 percent of your energy bills. Using ENERGY STAR certified products, such as ENERGY STAR washing machine, can use 10 - 15 percent less energy and water than standard models. You can get more energy savings by switching to ENERGY STAR LEDs. About 10 percent of the energy your home uses goes to lighting costs. By just replacing five of your home's most frequently used lights with energy-efficient ENERGY STAR bulbs, you could save \$75 a year in energy costs.
- ◆ **Use an electronic power strip**  
Many electronic devices and equipment continue to consume unnecessary energy even when not in use. Often called energy vampires, these devices cost families about \$100 a year. Use a power strip for electronic devices and turn it off when not in use to eliminate energy vampires. And be sure to unplug your chargers -- they draw energy even when they aren't connected to a device.
- ◆ **Reduce energy for water heating**  
Water heating is a large energy expense in your home, accounting for about 14-18 percent of your utility bills. By taking low-cost steps, you can reduce your water heating

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*One of the most cost-effective ways to make your home more comfortable year-round is to add insulation to your attic, including the attic trap or access door, which is relatively easy. Before making up-grades, you may also work with an energy auditor to use the Home Energy Score, which provides a rating of your home's current efficiency, as well as a list of improvements and potential savings.*

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bills. Make sure your water heater is set to no higher than 120 degrees. Install low-flow showerheads or temperature-sensitive shower valves. Newer water heaters have more insulation than older ones. If your water heater is more than five years old, you should wrap a water heater jacket around it to stop heat loss from the tank.

- ◆ **Attend home buying symposium on January 17, 2015**  
This symposium will provide you more energy efficiency information in depth as well as how to conduct a home energy audit. If you have any questions about buying or remodeling home, please call 352-671-8400 to register today. It is FREE and light refreshment will be provided.

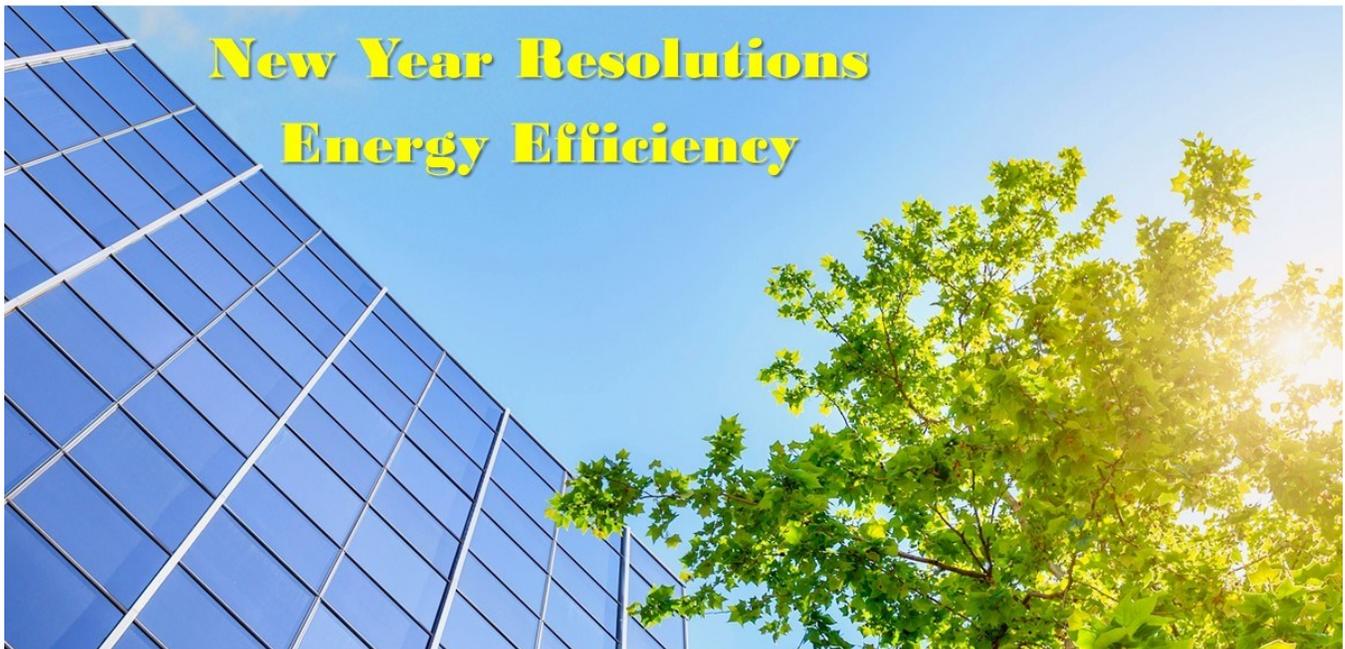
More information, please click [here](#).

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To receive future electronic copies of WET, please contact Yilin Zhuang.



# Home Buying Symposium

A Guide For Prospective Homebuyers



**It's FREE!**  
Register Now

**January 17, 2015**  
**9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

**UF/IFAS Extension at**  
**Marion County**  
**Auditorium (South Hall)**  
**2232 NE Jacksonville Rd**  
**Ocala, FL 34471**

**Please come to our symposium, we have experts that will help you understand:**

- **Financial preparation**
- **Home selection and closing**
- **Home water safety**
- **Home energy efficiency**
- **Indoor air quality**
- **Florida-friendly landscaping**

**Call 352-671-8400 to register.**  
**Refreshment will be provided.**

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