



saving  
energy

with the

# Kerr Family



Bullfrog Power customer, Geoff Kerr, has learned a thing or two about saving energy. The Toronto-based father of two was thinking about switching to Bullfrog Power, but was concerned about the family's ability to afford the green premium... especially after a huge hydro bill landed in their mailbox last July. "We wanted to make the transition cost neutral for us so we knew that would require some changes," Geoff says. The family made the switch to Bullfrog Power, and Geoff embarked on a quest indoors and out to cut the family's electricity use.

---

**Geoff's enthusiasm for energy savings has paid off. The Kerrs have reduced their electricity consumption by about 60%**

---

Outdoors, he started by shutting down the pool pump, which had previously been configured to run continuously. Now the pump is set to run on an intermittent schedule during the day, saving energy while still

ensuring that the pool remains in good order. Geoff also noticed that some outdoor garden lights were misconfigured to run all night. Now they remain off at night, and will soon be replaced with solar garden lights.

Inside the house, Geoff got busy too. He shut off the furnace fan – a constant source of electricity drain – and turned the temperature on the air conditioner up to 25°C. "We realized the house was far too cool – we were dressing the kids in flannel pyjamas in July!" Closing the blinds to block out the sun during the day helped to keep the house comfortably cool.

Geoff's next target was the old second fridge lingering in the basement. A little food consolidation was all that was necessary to send this energy-hungry appliance into permanent retirement, delivering even more savings. The pop and frozen food found a new home upstairs in the primary – and far more energy-efficient – fridge in the kitchen.

With two kids, the washer and dryer were running almost daily. "The washer you can't

do much about," Geoff laments, "but the dryer was just a convenience." Soon the family was drying clothes outside and reduced dryer usage to "fluff only".

By this point, Geoff had reaped some huge energy savings, "but we had to keep going!" he says. "That's when we started following each other around the house to see which lights were left on most often." Geoff replaced bulbs with compact fluorescents and retrained the rest of the family to turn off the lights when leaving a room. The family also reduced the amount of lighting they use in each room, using individual lamps rather than multiple overhead lights. "You only need a single lamp to read by," Geoff comments, "not an eight-bulb overhead light."

Geoff's enthusiasm for energy savings has paid off. The Kerrs have reduced their electricity consumption by about 60%, more than offsetting the premium they pay for green power, while setting a great example in conservation to the kids at the same time!