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## Hosting an Outdoor Party Before the End of Summer? Make It an Opportunity To Get Energy Efficient

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Summer is the best time for get-togethers with family and friends. So, if it's your turn to host, don't miss out on energy savings opportunities that are as close as your deck or backyard.

*—Editor's note: [This article](#) by Enoch Lenge, an energy-efficiency spokesman for Eversource, is from his blog on the Eversource.com website. It seems a bit late in the summer for these kinds of energy-saving projects, but you can certainly still make changes this now, save a bit and save more next year — especially if you have a swimming pool and especially if you heat it. And you'll be doing your part to help the environment.*

**Give your oven a break and fire up the grill** – Your oven uses more energy and heats up the kitchen, which means the A/C will be working overtime. Have a cookout to help cut your energy costs – and keep

your home more comfortable.

**Load up those coolers** – Keep the party outside. Stock those drinks and snacks in coolers on your deck or patio. Less foot traffic in and out of the house will help keep the cool air where it's supposed to be – in your home and in the refrigerator.

**Illuminate with LEDs** – They use 90 percent less energy, last 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and are available in a range of shapes and styles for outdoor use, including pool lights, string lights, spotlights and lanterns.

Look for the Energize Connecticut logo when you shop for light bulbs - an instant discount has been applied to many ENERGY STAR®-certified LEDs.

**Maintain an energy-efficient pool** – While pool maintenance can be a major expense, energy-efficient upgrades and good habits can help you save energy and money in the long run:

- **Automation systems** –Easily set and control your pool's temperature, pH level, cleaning and filtration so you won't have to worry about checking everything while hosting your party. An automated system ensures that items run only when they need to, and that can also help you save.
- **Heating** – Did you know that each degree you turn up the pool heater results in [10 to 30 percent more](#) in energy costs? Remember to turn off the heating system and use a cover when the pool isn't in use.
- **High efficiency pumps** — pool pumps use the most energy out of the entire swimming pool system, adding nearly [\\$500 every year](#) to your energy bills. ENERGY STAR-certified pool pumps use 70 percent less energy than standard pumps and can save you up to \$350 annually.

To learn more energy efficient ways to save at home, go to [Eversource.com](http://Eversource.com) and the [Energy Savings Plan](#) page.

This interactive planning tool is free and provides a detailed analysis of your energy usage, a customized savings plan for your home, and available incentives to help you better manage your energy consumption.