As Mother Nature turns up the temperature, so does the need to use your air conditioner. And PG&E is here to help with some preseason prep work to keep your AC running smoothly as you spring into summer.

More than 50% of a typical household's annual energy consumption is due to air conditioning and heating. The first step in your seasonal tune up-- help your AC system work efficiently by clearing dirt, debris, and any vegetation within two feet of the unit. Keeping the area clean can save up to \$15 a year.

Consider installing shade coverings or awnings around your AC unit, so it doesn't have to work as hard to cool your home. A change here can save \$140 a year. Your home could be losing up to 30% of its cooled or heated air through leaky ducts. Check for any cracks or holes or have a professional help you.

Plus, replace your filters. By cleaning or replacing them, you can improve performance, enhance air quality, and reduce energy costs. Swapping them out can save you \$15 a year. And remember, if you have any other concerns about your AC unit, schedule a safety check by a licensed technician. For more ways to keep energy costs down as the weather warms up, visit pge.com/summer.