## GREEN LIVING GUY

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## SUMMERIZE YOUR HOME WITH ENERGY-EFFICIENT, ECO-FRIENDLY UPGRADES

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As summer starts to heat up and temperatures rise, we crank up air conditioners to stay cool. However, many people may be surprised to learn that air conditioners use about 5% of all electricity produced in the U.S., costing homeowners more than \$11 billion a year in energy costs. And, nearly half of energy costs go to cooling and heating systems making it a significant factor when considering smart renovation decisions.

Americans are also largely unaware of a golden cooling optimization opportunity. Despite the fact that ductless mini-split heating and air conditioning systems are among the most energy efficient and can save up to 25% on utility bills, only 5% of consumers know about them. While the majority of HVAC systems in Asia and Europe are already ductless, they are rapidly gaining traction in North America with mini-split systems projected to enjoy an annual growth rate of 14% each year through 2020, according to a study conducted by clean technology market consulting firm Navigant Research.

Ductless mini-split systems are the most cost and energy efficient because they feature:

**Energy Star "Most Efficient":** Mini-splits like Fujitsu offer the world's most efficient mini-splits which are 2.35 times more efficient than the government minimum standard.

**Individual Zoning Control:** Allows as many as eight indoor zones each with their own thermostat so you only heat or cool the areas you want and not unoccupied areas.

**No Ducts:** Duct losses in a central air system can account for more than 30% of energy consumption. Mini-splits have no ducting so they don't have energy losses associated with central forced-air systems.

**Smart Technology:** Can be managed remotely using a smartphone, tablet or PC via the Internet to insure optimal efficiency without losing comfort.

**Rebates:** To encourage customers to buy energy efficient products, many local utility companies offer significant rebates for the purchase of a ductless mini-split system.

Earth-friendly Elements: Ductless systems leverage advances in chemistry to reduce effects on the environment by using a refrigerant called R410A, known for its zero ozone depletion potential. This means less impact on the environment. Whether you're looking to save on cooling costs with your current air conditioner, upgrade to a more energy-efficient model, or renovate your older home without the hassle of installing ducts, ductless mini-split air conditioning and heating systems, like Fujitsu Halcyon systems, might be a good option to consider.

Source: Fujitsu General America