

# Personal Actions #1

## One thing you can do: Boil Water Better

The gas was just turned back on in my building after a 9 month hiatus. In violation of the rule “a watched pot never boils” I spent many exasperated minutes staring at the water in the pot as it took nearly 20 minutes to boil with a single burner hot plate. Why? Think of the electricity I was wasting!

Recently the New York Times published some insight into the most efficient ways to boil water. Read the entire **short** article here [One Thing You Can Do: Boil Better](#) and consider subscribing to their excellent weekly newsletter on personal actions [Climate Fwd](#).

Here are some takeaways:

- Energy efficiency depends on your energy source. By the time electricity from fossil fuel plants has reached your home it has lost about 60% of its energy.
- Gas stovetops are not very efficient. They top out at 30 percent efficiency
- Microwaves are somewhat better at 42 percent efficient
- Because they are insulated, electric kettles run at 70% efficiency. Don't boil more water than you need and turn off the kettle when you see the water is boiling. Auto-stop goes too long.
- Beginning with hot water has advantages only if you are boiling a large amount
- Be vigilant about energy use

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