

3/20/2013

**METER NO:**

**ACCOUNT NO:**

**SERVICE ADDRESS:**

**Subject: Energy-Saving Tips**

You expressed an interest in learning more about energy-saving ideas. You can save on your natural gas bills by following these and other tips:

- Take this test: If a playing card fits the crevice of an outside door or window, you need more weather stripping. Caulk and weather-strip to stop air leaks around windows, doors, exhaust fans and any other place where wires or pipes pass through walls. Replace caulk that has cracks or is no longer soft.
- Install storm windows and doors to reduce heat loss. You can also make storm windows out of 6-mil plastic sheets. Stretch it as tightly as you can.
- Replace single-pane windows with high-performance glass.
- Keep out winter air by covering your window air conditioners tightly on the inside with thick plastic or special air conditioner covers. Weather-strip around the units.
- Cover bare ground beneath your home with a vapor barrier to keep moisture from getting into your home. Polyethylene sheets work well.
- Check the attic access door or pull-down stairs. Weather-strip and insulate as needed.
- Insulate the attic space using loose fill or insulation rolls. High-efficiency building code standards recommend "R" values of R-30 in ceilings, R-16 in walls, and R-19 over crawl spaces. The "R" value is a measure of how well insulation traps heat.
- Ventilate the attic space. Vents are needed both high and low in the attic space to promote good circulation for proper ventilation.
- Turn off bathroom faucets tightly and fix leaky faucets promptly.
- Take shorter showers and install water-saving shower heads.
- Turn off the water faucet while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Set your water heater thermostat at or below 120 degrees Fahrenheit to avoid risk of scalding. You can purchase dishwashers with pre-heaters that work well with lower water temperatures.
- Use draft guards at the bottom of any doors that open into unconditioned areas.
- Close heating vents or radiators in rooms you don't use.
- Lower your thermostat at night and use more blankets in winter.
- Put on more layers of clothing to keep warm.
- Keep your fireplace damper closed when there's no fire in the fireplace. If you have glass fireplace doors, keep them closed as well. Open the damper when the fireplace is in use.
- Improve efficiency in winter by using ceiling fans set on reverse to recirculate heat that would otherwise build up near the ceiling.

- Keep radiators or vents clear of furniture or drapes.
- Use stove exhaust fans that vent to the outdoors as little as possible during the winter.
- Run your garbage disposal with cold water.
- Don't open the oven door to check on food any more than necessary.
- Cook in oven-safe glass or ceramic pans when you can. They allow you to set your oven temperature twenty-five degrees lower than the recipe calls for.
- Cook several dishes in the oven at the same time. Prepare double recipes when you can and freeze for future use. Reheat with microwave.
- Take the pan test on a gas stove or cook top. If the flame is visible on the sides of the pan, lower the setting to conserve fuel.
- Wash full loads only. Use the maximum washing time only for heavily soiled clothes. Washing longer than necessary wastes energy and wears out clothes.
- Vary the size of garments in a load so water can circulate freely.
- Use warm or cold water for washing and always use cold water to rinse.
- Clear the dryer lint screen after each load for quick drying.
- Check and clean your dryer exhaust vent periodically. Remove lint after each load.
- If your clothes dryer has an automatic cycle, use it. Drying more than needed wastes energy and wears out clothes.
- Check the dryer's outside vent lid monthly to make sure it opens and closes freely. If it doesn't close tightly, replace it with one that does to keep outside air from leaking in.
- Dry loads of clothing back to back, using the left over heat to reduce drying time.
- Move furniture away from heating and cooling registers or radiators.
- Install thermal shades or shutters on windows.
- Keep heating and air conditioning filters clean. It's difficult to force air through dirty filters.
- Lower your furnace thermostat 5 degrees before going to bed. When no one is home, set it back to 55 degrees.
- Protect your thermostat from drafts so your heating system only runs when you need it.
- Replace your old thermostat with a newer clock model. These new devices can be set to automatically lower temperature at bedtime and raise them again in the morning.
- Schedule annual maintenance check-ups for your heating and cooling systems.
- Turn off your water heater or set it to "pilot" when you'll be away from home for a vacation or for any extended period.
- Insulate your water heater if it's in an unconditioned space.
- Insulate the first 3 to 6 feet of cold and hot water pipes near your water heater. Insulating all your hot water pipes is only necessary where pipes are located in a crawl space or attic. Keep foam insulation at least 6 inches from the vent of a gas water heater.

**Thank you for using natural gas.**