



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jeff Murski, Marketing and Member Services, 936-825-5111 or 979-220-5853

Conservation Tips Can Lower Electric Bills

The dog days of summer are upon us and temperatures continue to rise, but that does not mean that your electric bill has to rise as well. Mid South Synergy members should know that help is available and it starts right here at home. By practicing a few easy steps, the Mid South customer can realize some real cost savings especially during the summer time when peak usage is at its highest.

“You Have the Power” is a special program guide available to each Mid South member. It serves as a cost-cutting guide to conservation to help the member reduce their electric bills. “Conservation is a priority at Mid South and through education and a little effort, our members can effectively manage their energy use that will have a direct impact on their energy costs and quality of life” said Mid South’s Jeff Murski.

Here are some easy ways to keep your bill low this summer;

- The single best way to reduce your cooling costs is to set your thermostat this summer to 78 degrees or higher. Consider this; if you are keeping your thermostat at 72 degrees in the summer, raising it to 78 degrees could save you up to 47% on cooling costs. Put another way, for an average electric bill of \$200, a customer that sets their thermostat to 72 degrees will see their bill increase by almost \$40 each month.
- Keep the air inside.....where it belongs. Air escapes from several different areas in your home. It can leak from doors, windows, electric outlets, ducts, floors, fireplaces and plumbing. If you find that you have air leaking from windows throughout your house, insulating around those areas may be necessary. Caulking will help eliminate air leaking from doors and windows. Replace old weather-stripping around doors and windows and add insulation to all electrical outlet covers. This helps to create a barrier of resistance and keeps heat from escaping in the winter or coming in during the summer.
- Replace air filters. Make sure you replace your air filters regularly. If your air filters are dirty, your air conditioning units have to work harder. That means less efficiency and more money spent on your energy bill.
- Turn out the lights. It's a simple idea, but energy is wasted by leaving lights on when they are not in use. Go fluorescent. Fluorescent lighting costs more to buy, but far less to operate and they last longer. If you

replace 25 % of the incandescent lighting with fluorescent, you'll save about 50% on the lighting portion of your electric bill!

- To figure out how much energy you can save, you have to calculate how much you currently use. For instance, do you know how much you are paying to run your appliances in your home? Appliances account for approximately 20% of your electric bill. Refrigerators, freezers, ranges, ovens, washers and dryers, and dishwashers all use electricity to operate. Just go to our website, www.midsouthsynergy.com and click on the Home Energy Calculator, enter a few key numbers and it does the work for you!
- When it's time for a NEW appliance, consider energy efficiency and look for the Energy Star. Appliances that receive an Energy Star rating are among the most energy-efficient available.
- Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.
- If you are home during the day, use a room fan to create a cooling breeze.

Members and consumers play a big part in the conservation of energy, and communication is key. Talk to your friends and neighbors about how you can make a difference and cut energy costs. Get involved in your communities and your electric co-op.

For more information on how you can do your part to conserve energy and keep prices down, visit your nearest Mid-South office, or log onto our website at

www.midsouthsynergy.com

Together, we've got the power!

Mid South Synergy is an electric cooperative serving over 17,000 members in Grimes, Brazos, Madison, Walker, Montgomery and Waller Counties. Please visit our website at www.midsouthsynergy.com