



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: June 5, 2008**

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

### **Save Money this Summer by Getting Your House in Shape**

With summer vacations approaching, many of us are sweating it out in the gym, trying to get in shape for that trip to the beach. As the weather is getting warmer, it's also a good time to get your house in shape for the summer cooling season.

While air conditioning is critical to the comfort of you and your family, there are actions you can take to conserve energy and improve the efficiency of your home and your air conditioning system. By following these steps, your house will be in better shape to handle those hot, humid days without putting an extra burden on your energy bill.

- Set your thermostat to a higher temperature in the summer. Every degree above a thermostat setting of 78 degrees will save you up to 3% on cooling costs. Also, consider installing a programmable thermostat. This is an excellent way to match the cooling needs of your home to your

personal schedule. They typically offer savings of 10%–15% without compromising personal comfort.

- Replace filters on your air conditioner. For homes with central air, it is important to change the filter before the start of the cooling season and on a monthly basis thereafter. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer and work harder, increasing energy use.
- Plug air leaks in your home. Weather strip and caulk any leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.
- Check insulation levels. If necessary, add insulation in attics and crawl spaces. This will not only help to conserve energy, but will improve household comfort.
- Use energy efficient landscaping. Leafy trees and shrubs properly placed on the south and west side of your home can provide shade during the peak daytime heat. You can also reduce heat buildup by keeping blinds and curtains closed on windows facing the sun
- Consider cooling alternatives for your home. Fans and dehumidifiers use less energy than air conditioners and can help to increase comfort by reducing humidity levels and maintaining steady air flow.
- When replacing air conditioners or other cooling equipment, choose energy efficient models. These may cost a little more, but can pay for themselves through lower energy usage over the lifetime of the equipment. See the U.S. EPA's [Energy Star Web site](#) for more information about energy efficient cooling equipment.

## REDUCING Your Energy Use is Good for the Environment

Reducing home energy use can provide homeowners with significant long-term financial benefits. After all, the typical U.S. household spends \$1,000–\$2,000 per year on energy bills. In addition to saving you money, taking steps to lower energy consumption can also help to protect the environment. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the residential sector makes up about 18% of total greenhouse gas emissions, most of which is related to home energy use.

So, reducing your home energy consumption can help reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and lower the risk of climate change.

For more information about energy conservation including more valuable tips to help you save more money on your next electric or water bill please visit our website [midsouthsynergy.com](http://midsouthsynergy.com) and click on the “Conservation” button.

*Mid South Synergy is a Touchstone Energy electric cooperative serving just under 17,000 members in Grimes, Brazos, Madison, Walker, Montgomery and Waller Counties. Please visit our website at [www.midsouthsynergy.com](http://www.midsouthsynergy.com)*

*Touchstone Energy is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 640 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to approximately 22 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and longstanding commitment to communities.*