

Be Ready For Severe Weather Before It Strikes

Western Massachusetts Electric's online Storm Center at www.wmeco.com has great information about how to prepare before a storm, what to do should your power go out, and important safety tips.

The Storm Center also includes information about WMECo's storm restoration process, and an outage map – detailing outages in each of the cities and towns WMECo serves.



**Western Massachusetts
Electric**

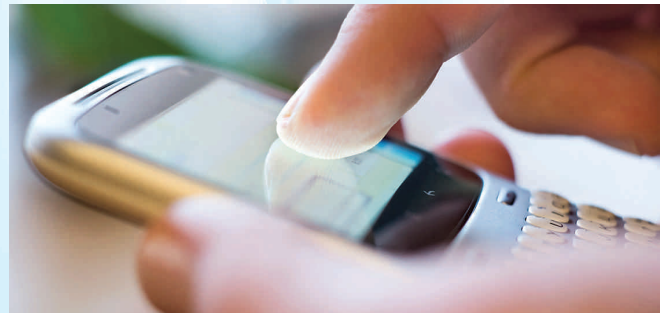
A Northeast Utilities Company

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Help Stop Energy Theft

Western Massachusetts Electric has an aggressive plan in place to prevent and stop the theft of energy. People who steal energy are unaware of the serious safety risks involved. They create situations endangering themselves, their family and their property, violate building codes and threaten public safety.

But you can help. If you see or know of any electric meter tampering (including bypassing a meter or the illegal installation of jumpers), please let us know confidentially either by calling 413-781-4300 (within the Springfield calling area) or 877-OK-WMECO (877-659-6326) (outside of the Springfield calling area) or visiting www.wmeco.com



Stay Connected to WMECo
on Facebook and Twitter!



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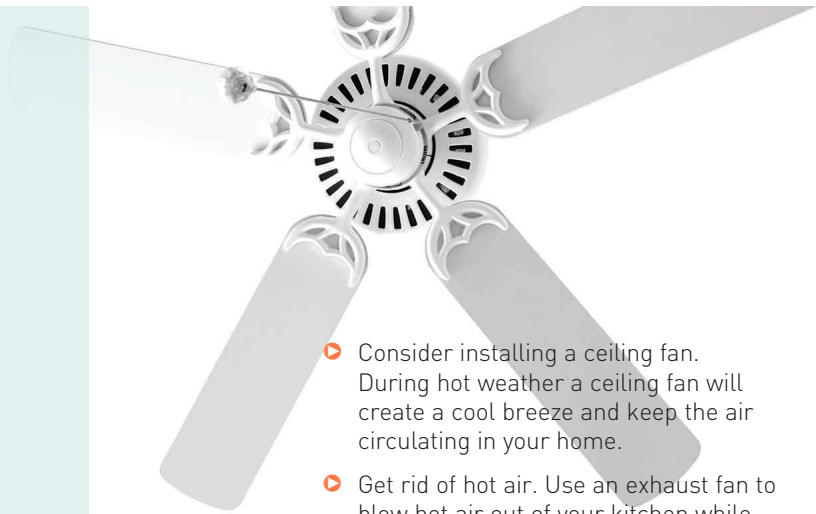
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Summer Energy Tips

With summer upon us, here are some great energy saving tips to help you avoid the heat while also saving on your energy bills.

- ▶ Look for ENERGY STAR® air conditioners, which are the most energy efficient models on the market. Replacing your old central air conditioner with a new ENERGY STAR qualified model can reduce your cooling costs by 20 percent.
- ▶ If possible, keep your room air conditioner out of the sun. Room air conditioners work best when kept cool. Installing one in a north-facing wall is usually ideal.
- ▶ If you have central air conditioning, keep your thermostat at 78 degrees. You can also save approximately an additional six to seven percent off your cooling costs for each degree above 78.



- ▶ Consider installing a ceiling fan. During hot weather a ceiling fan will create a cool breeze and keep the air circulating in your home.
- ▶ Get rid of hot air. Use an exhaust fan to blow hot air out of your kitchen while you're cooking. The savings on your cooling costs far outweigh the electricity used by the fan.
- ▶ Take lukewarm showers and baths to avoid humid air, which holds more heat.
- ▶ Close blinds, drapes and shades during the hottest part of the day. This keeps the strong sunlight from heating your home.
- ▶ Use your outdoor grill for cooking. You can also use your microwave or other countertop appliances in place of the stove or oven.
- ▶ Postpone laundry and dishwashing until nighttime to avoid generating extra heat in your home. Also, consider taking advantage of the warmer air and dry your laundry outside.
- ▶ If you have a pool, turn off your filter overnight when the pool is not in use.