

Stay Connected to WMECo on Facebook and Twitter!



We monitor our pages in order to keep in touch with our customers and to share tips, tidbits, and news with our followers.

Search **“WMECo”** to Like us on **Facebook**, and follow us **@WMECo** on **Twitter**. Check us out today!



### Connecting With Our Customers

For the third year in a row, WMECo held springtime “Utility Day” events in Pittsfield, Greenfield and Springfield. Representatives met with customers who experience financial challenges to help them set up payment arrangements, enroll in NUStart, and connect with local assistance agencies. More than 130 WMECo customers attended the three sessions.

If you missed the events, we have year-round programs to help those customers having trouble paying their electric bills.



**Western Massachusetts Electric**

A Northeast Utilities Company

© 2011 Northeast Utilities Service Company  
CD0611220M



**Western Massachusetts Electric**

A Northeast Utilities Company

JUNE 2011

## Keep Costs Down When the Temperature Goes Up!

Summertime in New England can get hot – and when the temperature goes up, so can your electric bill. Fortunately, there are ways to save on energy during the summer months. Inside, you will find many low- to no-cost ways to save energy and money this summer!

### Summer Savers

It's easy to forget that the air conditioner and other appliances you turn on in the summer use lots of energy and can result in a higher electric bill. Knowing the factors that increase your consumption will help you make better keep-cool choices.



*Continued >*



### Why Is Your Bill Higher Than Usual?

- Air conditioners and fans are running
- Refrigerators and freezers run longer in warm weather
- Sump pumps and dehumidifiers run more often in increased humidity
- Swimming pools are open, which require pumps and filter systems

### How Can You Minimize Your Summertime Bill?

- Use a fan instead of an air conditioner to consume less energy
- Clean air conditioner filters regularly and make sure that the unit is properly sized for the room it is cooling
- Regulate the thermostat between 74°F and 78°F when air conditioning is turned on – it is most efficient to run an air conditioner at the highest comfortable temperature

- Close blinds, shades and drapes to block out the sun's heat on hot summer days
- Cook outside on a grill instead of using the oven indoors, which will heat up your kitchen
- Hang clothes to dry instead of running the clothes dryer

### Hidden Electric Load

Many electronic devices in your home are consuming electricity even when you are not using them. Computers, televisions, cell phone chargers and kitchen electronics all continuously draw electricity unless they are disconnected from power.

All of that consumption can add up on your electric bill. To save money:

- Unplug devices that are not in use
- Connect your devices to a power strip, and turn the strip off when devices are not in use
- Replace appliances with energy efficient models that have the ENERGY STAR® label



WMECo offers additional programs under Mass Save. Renters and homeowners can take advantage of home energy assessments and weatherization measures in order to achieve improved energy efficiency with WMECo.

Visit our website, [www.wmeco.com](http://www.wmeco.com) or [www.MassSave.com](http://www.MassSave.com) for details.

### Summer Storm Season Is Upon Us

The winds, rain, and lightning that come with summer storms can topple tree limbs, trees, utility poles, and electricity wires, which can leave you without power. Being prepared and knowing what to do can help keep you, your family, and your home safe and secure.

#### If your power goes out:

- Check your breaker box for blown fuses and tripped circuits
- Call a neighbor to determine whether or not the outage is isolated to your home
- Call WMECo at 413.781.4300 (within the Springfield calling area) or at 1.877.OK.WMECO (1.877.659.6326)
- Turn off lights and unplug major appliances and electronics to prevent an electrical overload when power is restored

#### If you experience dimming or flickering lights:

- Unplug sensitive electronic equipment, such as your computer
- Disconnect appliances that are powered by a motor, such as air conditioners

#### If you encounter a downed power line:

- Stay at least 10 feet away from the line and anything it is in contact with
- Report it to WMECo immediately by calling 413.781.4300 (within the Springfield calling area) or 1.877.OK.WMECO (1.877.659.6326)

