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Western Massachusetts Electric

The Northeast Utilities System

Delivering the Energy
of Western Massachusetts

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR BILL, PLEASE CALL 1-800-286-2000 (781-4300 within the Springfield calling area). TDD SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT 1-800-221-1341

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ConsumerNews

W M E C O

HOT WEATHER MEANS

MANY OF US USE FANS AND AIR CONDITIONERS TO COOL OUR HOMES AND BUSINESSES, AND THIS HIGHER SEASONAL USAGE CAN

MEAN HIGHER ELECTRIC BILLS. YOUR HOME USAGE MAY ALSO INCREASE IF YOU HAVE HOUSE GUESTS OR CHILDREN HOME FOR SUMMER. FOR PRACTICAL ADVICE ON HELP TO KEEP COOL AND CONTROL YOUR ELECTRICITY USAGE AND COSTS, READ MORE IN THIS BILL INSERT.

In addition to air conditioners and fans adding to your summer energy costs, refrigerators and freezers may be running longer in the heat, and sump pumps and dehumidifiers are likely running more often on rainy and humid days.

To stay cool and save energy and money, consider these tips:

Cooooool Advice

- * *Set your air conditioning thermostat to 78 degrees. Raise it to 85 degrees, or turn off the cooling system, when you are away from home for long periods of time. For every two degrees you increase your thermostat, you will save up to 5 percent on your air conditioning costs.*
- * *Even better, install a programmable thermostat to adjust the temperature automatically.*
- * *Stay cool with a ceiling fan instead of air conditioning.*
- * *Close draperies and shades when the sun is strong.*
- * *Limit the use of household appliances that emit heat, especially during the hottest part of the day.*



CommunityConnections

Delivering the energy to western Massachusetts is the long, proud service commitment of WMECO. And delivering that energy goes far beyond our poles and wires. At WMECO, it's the energy of our people, on and off the job, that brings real value and help to our communities. For cycling and walking across the state to fund disease research, coaching youth on the sports field, helping families in crisis, and organizing events that raise dollars to treat illness and stop hunger, we honor our employees' volunteer efforts. In recognition of their service and to encourage others to follow their example, WMECO donates a grant to organizations our employees support with their time, talent and energy.

- * *Dry two or more loads of laundry in a row to take advantage of the heat already produced from the first load.*
- * *In summer, ceiling fans should be in the forward position, blowing down, for cooling.*

Keep in mind that window air conditioners are designed to cool one room only, so it is important that you choose the right-sized unit. A rule of thumb is about 20 BTUs for each square foot of room. A larger-than-needed air conditioner will not provide the best cooling. In fact, running a smaller unit for a longer time will use less energy to cool a room than running a larger unit for a shorter time.

If you are in the market for a new air conditioner, you'll likely be buying a much more energy-efficient unit than the one you're replacing. Even if your air conditioner is only 10 years old, you can save 20 – 40 percent in energy costs by replacing it with a new, more efficient model.

For more energy-saving tips, visit wmeco.com.

Home Security Tips

Safety first! 

With homes being burglarized every 10 seconds in America, enhanced home security brings peace of mind. Start with outdoor security lighting – which can be as simple as a bright light on an otherwise dark and secluded driveway.

Light areas that you need to access after dark and look for danger points such as steps or uneven walking surfaces. Well positioned lights with motion detectors are convenient and efficient. And encourage your neighbors to enhance their outdoor lighting, since a well lighted neighborhood is a big deterrent to crime. 