



A Good Energy Detective ... Can save \$\$\$ on winter energy bills.

Peabody Municipal Light Plant understands that high-energy costs can really pinch a family budget. Unfortunately, a portion of what a typical family spends on utility bills is wasted. There are some simple steps you can take to save energy and money around the home. By making a few small changes, you can reduce your energy costs and at the same time help reduce air pollution and dependence on foreign fuel imports. We hope the following energy saving tips are helpful. For more information, on energy conservation, insulation or hiring a contractor, PMLP customers may call the toll free Energy New England Hotline, 1-888-772-4242 and speak directly with their energy conservation experts. Of course, if you prefer, call PMLP at 978-573-1150.

Become An Energy Detective, Then Bundle Up Your Home And Put It On A Diet!!

- ✓ **Identify where your home is losing energy** - Perform or receive a home energy audit. Free home energy audits are always available through PMLP. Just call 978-573-1150 for more information. If you are a natural gas customer, your gas supplier will also perform a no cost energy audit. If you prefer, there are some excellent do it yourself options available. Go to www.eere.energy.gov and type in home energy audit in the search box. Remember, you can install the most energy efficient heating system available in your home, but if your walls, windows and doors are not properly insulated, caulked and weather-stripped the heat generated will escape and you will still burn a lot of fuel. Pay special attention to basements and attics where the biggest gaps and cracks are often found.
- ✓ **Is your heating system operating at peak performance?** - Save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining your system. An annual inspection and cleaning by a professional is a must. Change your furnace filter. Monthly replacement can save as much as 5% on heating bills.
- ✓ **Are your heat registers blocked?** - Be sure heavy curtains or furniture do not block heat registers. If you have adjustable registers, direct warm airflow across the room.
- ✓ **Check your hot water temperature** - Set your water heater to the "normal" setting of 120 degrees, unless your dishwasher requires a higher setting. Savings are 7-11% of water heating costs.
- ✓ **Monitor and shorten showers** - Showers account for a large portion of your water heating costs. Cutting your showers in half can reduce hot water costs by 33%.
- ✓ **Wash clothes in cold water** - About 90% of the energy used for washing clothes is for heating the water. Unless you are dealing with oily stains, the warm or cold water setting will generally do a good job. Just switching from hot to warm can cut the energy use in half.
- ✓ **Is it time to replace or discard the old, second refrigerator?** - According to information found on the Energy Star web site, replacing a refrigerator bought in 1990 with a new Energy Star model would save enough energy to light the average household for more than four months. Visit www.energystar.gov for more valuable information.
- ✓ **Check kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans** - in just one hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of warmed or cooled air. Turn fans off as soon as they have done the job.
- ✓ **Insulate windows with coverings** - Close blinds and drapes at night to keep cold air out and open them during the day to let warm sun in. Cover windows with insulating shades or plastic sheeting to reduce heat loss.

- ✓ **Are you using the most energy efficient** (CFLs) last 4 -10 times longer than standard but pay for themselves by saving energy using only 15 watts produces the light



light bulbs? – Compact fluorescent bulbs incandescent bulbs. They cost a bit more, over their lifetime. For example, a CFL equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb.

- ✓ **Put on a sweater and save a few dollars** - For every degree you raise the thermostat, your bill goes up by as much as 3%. Try reducing the temperature if possible. Turning down the thermostat by 10 degrees at night or when the house is unoccupied can save as much as 20% of heating costs. Remember, small children and the elderly, in particular, may be vulnerable to problems at lower temperatures. Reduce the temperature gradually to give your body time to adjust to the new temperature level.
- ✓ **Install a programmable thermostat, compatible with your heating system** - Set different temperatures during the night and day. Program it to warm up the house in the morning, keep it cooler during the day while residents are away, and warm it up again in the evening until bedtime. Consumers can save 2 - 3% on heating bills for every degree thermostats are turned down.
- ✓ **Seal doors with draft reducing weather-stripping and door sweeps**
- ✓ **Fireplace Tips** - If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue; keep the damper closed unless a fire is going. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney. Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- ✓ **Can you save more on electricity?** - Many new TV's and other electronic devices use electricity even when they are switched off. These "standby losses" can add up to a constant 50 watts of use in a typical home. Switching off a power strip will serve the same purpose as unplugging.
- ✓ **Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.**
- ✓ **Be An Educated Consumer** - When purchasing new appliances, hot water heaters or heating/cooling systems, ask about the energy efficiency of the product. Read the energy guide and look for the Energy Star Logo on the appliance. Making the most energy efficient purchase may cost more initially but the energy savings will continue throughout the lifetime of the purchase and ultimately pay for the additional costs. Investigate the availability of manufacturers and utility rebates.



Weatherization Assistance Program:

Peabody Municipal Light Plant financially supports local weatherization programs for low-income residents through North Shore Community Action Program. To see if you qualify for the program call NSCAP at 978-531-0767. The weatherization assistance program operates on a simple, yet effective premise – increasing the energy efficiency of a dwelling will result in a decrease of the occupant's energy costs. Rather than offering a temporary fix through bill assistance, weatherization provides a lasting solution by addressing the cause of high energy bills. The program not only works to reduce high energy costs for low-income families, but also decreases the nation's energy consumption; educates consumers in energy efficiency practices and reduces dependence on imported oil.

We proudly partner with North Shore Community Action Program, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Housing & Community Development and U. S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in this worthwhile program.



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Business Office Hours 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. - 24 Hour Emergency Service

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