



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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PSC Urges Consumers to consider Winter Weatherization and Budgeting Tools

MADISON- As winter approaches, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) encourages utility customers to take advantage of weatherization and smart budgeting programs to reduce the burden of utility bills this upcoming winter.

“Without wishing away the sun too soon, residents can save money and energy this winter by taking a few common-sense measures early,” said Ellen Nowak, PSC Chairperson. “Conserving energy means saving money, and assistance is available to help customers plan for winter heating costs. For Wisconsin families on a budget, these are good tools to help manage utility bills during the winter months.”

Energy Conservation and Weatherization

The following resources are available to provide information on energy conservation and weatherization.

- Focus on Energy: 1(800)762-7077 or <http://focusonenergy.com>
- Home Energy Plus: 1(888)432-8947 or <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov>

Budget Billing

One option for consumers looking for smart utility budgeting tips is a “budget billing” alternative. This type of payment plan allows consumers to evenly distribute their energy costs over a 12-month period helping consumers balance high winter bills against lower bills at other times of year. Individual utilities determine consumers’ “budget billing” monthly payment amount averaging the previous years’ usage. Utilities will inform consumers of their monthly “budget billing” amount, and typically review the budget every six months. If consumers choose this option, monthly usage should be monitored closely to ensure the result is not a large balance due at the end of the cycle.

Energy Assistance

Energy assistance is available to income-eligible households with a gross household income at or below 60-percent of the median gross household income in Wisconsin. The links below can assist residents looking for information on whether or not they qualify and where to find assistance.

- Income level guidelines:
<http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=239&linkid=118&locid=25>
- Energy assistance locations:
<http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov/section.asp?linkid=119&locid=25>

Utility Assistance

Many utilities offer tips for energy savings and weatherization programs on their websites or in an insert within a customer's bill. Consumers should contact their utility directly to obtain this information.

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