



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Conserve Energy while Staying Cool

MADISON – When summer temperatures are on the rise, staying cool and safe is a priority. Instead of relying only on air conditioning and accepting higher utility bills, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) has some fairly easy, low-cost steps that can help reduce your energy use while staying cool.

TIPS TO CONSERVE ENERGY WHILE STAYING COOL

- Close blinds and curtains on hot, sunny days.
- Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature higher when you are away from home and cooler before you return. Be sure not to place lamps or other heat-generating appliances next to the thermostat.
- For long term cooling, plant trees to shade your house.
- Hang your clothes out to dry rather than using your clothes dryer.
- Use ceiling fans. They can make a room feel six to seven degrees cooler. The ceiling fan blades should be rotating counter-clockwise during the summer months.
- Put a fan next to your air conditioner to help circulate the cool air.
- Set your dishwasher to the air-dry mode to dry dishes, rather than using heat and energy to do it.
- Turn off electronics when you are not using them, including computers, televisions and radios.
- Check the weather-stripping and caulking for leaks around doors and windows.
- Clean and maintain your air conditioner often. Make sure air filters, air intakes, grilles, and radiators are unblocked and clean at all times to maintain peak performance.
- If you are ready to buy new appliances, look for those that are ENERGY STAR qualified, which means they are more energy efficient than traditional appliances.
- Use natural lightening and compact fluorescent lights rather than heat-generating incandescent light bulbs.
- Close the doors and close vents in rooms that are not being used.

The average family spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills with nearly half going towards heating and cooling. The above suggestions will help cut down on energy bills while staying comfortably cool. To learn about more ways to conserve energy, visit the PCS's website at <http://psc.wi.gov/consumerinfo/conservation/indexConservation.htm> or the state's Focus on Energy website at www.focusonenergy.com.

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