



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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## Sweating Summer Utility Bills? Save Your Energy *Tips to Manage Costs and Stay Cool*

MADISON – Utility bills can soar with rising temperatures. To stay cool this summer while conserving energy and keeping costs down, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) offers these easy, low-cost steps:

### PROVIDE SHADE

- Close blinds and curtains on hot days.
- Install white window shades or blinds to reflect heat away from your house.
- For long-term cooling, plant trees to shade your house. Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25 percent of a typical household's energy used for cooling.
- Place air conditioning units under trees to shade the unit.

### APPLIANCES

- Unplug electronics like computers, televisions and radios when not using them.
- Set your dishwasher to air-dry mode and use it only when it's fully loaded.
- Turn on ceiling fans only when you're in the room.
- Put a fan next to your air conditioner to help circulate cold air.
- Clean and maintain your air conditioner often. Make sure air filters, air intakes, grilles and radiators are unblocked and clean at all times. Clean dirt and leaves off coils on outdoor units.
- When buying new appliances, including air conditioners, look for those that are ENERGY STAR rated, which means they are more energy efficient than traditional appliances.

### VERY LOW-COST

- Use cold water for doing laundry and washing dishes.
- Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Check the weather-stripping and caulking for leaks around doors and windows.
- Use a microwave oven instead of using the stove or oven.
- Minimize the amount of time your refrigerator and freezer doors are open.
- Use natural lighting and compact fluorescent light bulbs. 90 percent of the energy used by an incandescent bulb makes heat.

For more information about conserving energy, visit the Summer Energy Tips on PSC's website at [www.psc.wi.gov/consumerinfo/conservation/indexconservation.htm](http://www.psc.wi.gov/consumerinfo/conservation/indexconservation.htm).

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