



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Beat the Heat and Save Energy

Tips to Manage Costs, Stay Cool, and Enjoy Summer

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:

- Use cold water for doing laundry and air dry your clothes on clotheslines.
- Wash dishes with cold water and air dry.
- Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Check the weather-stripping and caulking for leaks around doors and windows.
- Use a microwave oven or cook outside 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. Ninety percent of the energy used by an incandescent bulb makes heat.

Manage Home Cooling:

- 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/shrubs to shade your house. Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25 percent of a typical household's energy used for cooling.
- Place your room air conditioner on the north side of the house. A unit operating in the shade uses up to 10% less electricity than the same one operating in the sun.
- Whole-house fans help cool your home by pulling cool air into the house and exhausting warm air through the attic. Most effective when operated at night as the air is cooler outside than in.

Appliance Usage:

- Unplug electronics like computers, televisions, and radios when not in use.
- 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.
- 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.

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

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