



# 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.

“Wisconsin winters can be tough, but residents can save money and energy 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 both 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 +: 1(800)432-8947 or <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov>

### **Budget Billing**

One option for consumers looking for smart utility budgeting tips is a “budget billing” option. This type of payment plan allows consumers to budget their utility bills by spreading winter heating costs over a 12-month period. Individual utilities 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.

- Poverty level guidelines: <http://psc.wi.gov/consumerInfo/assistancePrograms/poverty.htm>

- 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 website or in an insert within a customer's bill. Consumers should contact their utility directly to obtain this information.

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