

Lines

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PEPCO CUSTOMERS IN MARYLAND

WWW.PEPCO.COM

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DID YOU KNOW?

Q: We have two laptops, a plasma screen TV, fax machine and other electronics in our home. Is it true they use a lot of energy even when turned off?

A: Yes. Your electronic appliances and high-tech gizmos can drain electricity even when turned off. Some experts call this "vampire power" or wasted standby power, which can account for up to 10 percent of your monthly electric bill.

A few simple steps will save you energy and money:

1. Conduct an audit of your home electronics. For less than \$25, you can buy an electricity usage monitor to calculate wasted standby power.
2. Buy ENERGY STAR appliances or electronics – your energy efficiency guarantee. Visit www.energystar.gov for information.
3. Go to www.pepco.com "My Account" for low-cost and no-cost ways to lower your energy bill.

Thanks Maryland Customers!

Congratulations Maryland customers for making Pepco's ENERGY STAR® CFL discount program so successful. CFL stands for compact fluorescent light bulb.

Since the campaign started last November, Maryland customers have purchased well more than 300,000 CFLs. Because an ENERGY STAR CFL uses 75 percent less energy to operate than an incandescent, power plants are generating a lot fewer greenhouse gas emissions thanks to your support.

Here's how you've helped. In just three months enough ENERGY STAR CFLs were purchased to prevent more than 210 million pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. That's equivalent to taking about 21,000 cars off the highway.

Not only did you help save the environment, you also are saving money on your energy bill. For the typical Maryland customer who uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours monthly, you will save 45 cents per month, or \$5.40 per year, per bulb on your bill.

And now you can purchase discounted ENERGY STAR CFLs at more stores. We are pleased to announce that Strosniders Hardware has been added to our list of participating Maryland retailers. ENERGY STAR is your assurance that the CFL you're buying is energy efficient.

Stop by these outlets, as well as The Home Depot and Costco stores participating in Maryland, and save \$1.50 on single bulbs and \$3 on multipacks.

So continue to purchase discounted ENERGY STAR CFLs as you change out your incandescent bulbs. In the meantime, pat yourself on the back for doing your part to save energy and reduce climate change.



Play it Safe and Enjoy Springtime

Warmer weather is coming and many of us will be spending time outdoors. Yard work and recreation may increase the likelihood of coming near power lines. Here are some safety tips to follow:

- Never touch a power line!
- Always assume a downed power line is “live” and stay away from it. Call Pepco’s downed line number at 202-872-3432 to report it.
- When carrying tall items, such as ladders or pool cleaning equipment, be sure to hold them parallel to the ground.
- When boating, make sure there is at least 10 feet of clearance between the highest point of your boat and a power line. Be aware of any signs that indicate underwater gas or electric lines.
- Never fly kites or model airplanes near power lines.
- Never attempt to enter an electrical substation.



To learn more about electrical safety, visit www.pepco.com.

Solar Panels Help Power New Substation

Resting atop Pepco’s new substation in Northeast Washington are 48 solar panels. Together the panels produce roughly 10,000 watts of power.

While that is not enough to supply all the power needs of the substation, it will reduce the amount of conventional power it uses. And that helps protect the environment by reducing power plant emissions.

The project is part of Pepco’s commitment to lessening our carbon footprint. That commitment includes converting to energy-efficient lighting in our facilities where possible and using alternative fuels and hybrids in our vehicle fleet.

My Account – On-Line Tools You Can Use

These days many of our customers are concerned about energy efficiency, rising energy prices and global warming.

Pepco understands and offers “My Account” -- our interactive, dynamic Web-based tool to help you analyze your electric bill, learn ways to conserve energy and reduce energy costs.

With “My Account” you can take an on-line energy audit of your home. Discover how much you can save by upgrading to energy-efficient appliances and weatherizing your home.

Log on to www.pepco.com and click “My Account,” and see what electricity savings you can find. Not only will using less electricity save you money, but power plants won’t have to generate as much electricity. And that reduces greenhouse gas emissions.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Are you planning to start your first herb garden, plant shrubs, install a new mailbox or have a deck built on your property this spring? If so, WAIT! Call 811.

Dialing this national number before you dig is one more way to keep everyone safe. It also helps protect utility equipment as well as the electric and gas infrastructure.

When you call 811, locators mark the planned digging area within a few business days at no charge. These marks show the approximate location of underground electric lines, gas pipes and other utility equipment.

Failure to call 811 before you dig could result in an explosion, fire or equipment damage - which can cause power failures and power surges.

If unauthorized digging causes harm, the property owner may have to pay costly fines and repair charges. Even more importantly, you, your family or your neighbors could get hurt.

Not only should homeowners on “do it yourself” jobs call 811 before digging, so should landscapers, contractors and technicians. Each state has different laws for digging, so visit www.call811.com for state-specific information.

No matter the size or scope of your outdoor project, you always need to “know what’s below” so call 811 for everyone’s sake!



A PHI Company

Customer Service: (202) 833-7500
TTY Telephone Number for Hearing Impaired: (202) 872-2369
To Report Power Outages: 1-877-PEPCO 62 (1-877-737-2662)