

Graph Source: U.S. DOE/Energy Information Administration

When Temperatures Climb, You Can Keep Cooling Costs Down

During hot weather central air conditioning can account for about 30 percent of your energy bill. So now is a good time to have your cooling equipment checked by a qualified technician to make sure it's running efficiently. Also remember to replace air filters monthly. Finally, set the thermostat between 75 and 78 degrees and save about 5 percent on cooling costs.



A PHI Company

energy
KNOW HOW™

Know How to Save Energy as Prices Rise

When energy prices go up, so does Pepco's cost to purchase electricity from suppliers. The dramatic increases in fossil fuel prices, which set the wholesale price for electricity, are illustrated to the left.

Pepco purchases power through competitive bidding to supply its Standard Offer Service (SOS) customers. The lowest bids are then used to reset rates for the company's more than 200,000 SOS customers in the District. The District of Columbia Public Service Commission supervises the bidding process and approves prices.

Based on this year's auction, Pepco's residential customers will pay approximately 12 percent more on their monthly electric bill beginning June 1st when proposed supply rates are adjusted to reflect current market prices. That means the average monthly bill will go up about \$8.33.

The new prices reflect the increasing costs of worldwide energy markets. The price increases are driven by a growing international demand for energy made worse by the impacts of the hurricanes along our Gulf Coast.

Despite the high cost of energy, the Public Service Commission's procurement plan has helped protect customers from even higher energy costs. Under the PSC's procurement plan, only about one-third of the total supply requirement was up for bid this year. Under this plan, multiple rolling contracts moderate the extent of price changes in any one year.

Pepco will continue to help low-income customers enroll in bill payment assistance programs run by the utility and the District government. Pepco also will support the efforts of many advocacy groups that provide guidance and assistance to low-income customers.

We encourage customers to learn more about how to use energy wisely. Visit our Web site at www.pepco.com for more information. Click on "Energy Know How" to download a copy of *85 Ways To Save Energy & Money* brochure. Or call our Customer Care Center at 202-833-7500 to request a copy.

PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

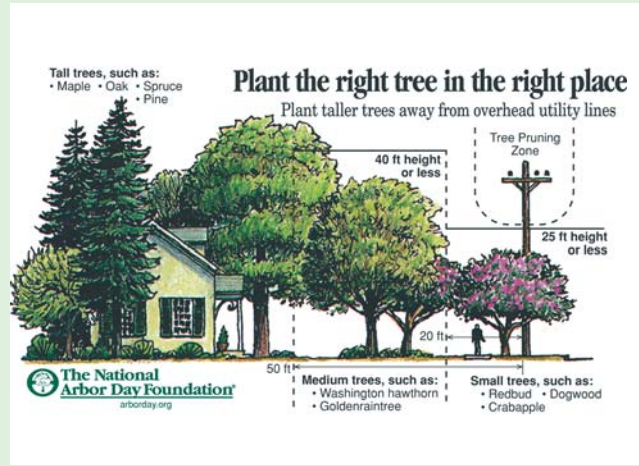
We are fortunate to live in an area with so many trees. Not only do they add to the natural beauty of our landscape, but they are good for the environment. They absorb CO₂, which makes our air healthier.

When planted in the right place, trees can reduce air conditioning use, which means you save energy and money on utility bills.

It is important, however, to plant the right tree in the right place. Here are some things to keep in mind when planting trees:

- Do not plant trees that will grow tall near power lines. If they come into contact with the lines they can pose a safety hazard and can result in power outages.
- Do not attempt to trim trees near power lines. It is dangerous and can result in injury or death. Consult a professional.
- Do not plant vines or other creeping vegetation near utility poles.

To learn more about tree planting and care, visit the Arbor Day Web site at www.arborday.org.



When carrying long or tall items such as ladders, poles, scaffolding, tree saws and pool cleaning equipment, keep them parallel to the ground to avoid contact with overhead wires. Before raising any equipment into the air, make sure they are clear of power lines.

www.pepco.com. And while you are there, check out “Megawatt U.” It’s loaded with good, reader-friendly information about electricity safety.

Step Up to Safety When Using Ladders

Overhead power lines can present safety hazards for anyone doing overhead work – from homeowners painting their homes or cleaning gutters to contractors operating cranes, booms, or other high-reaching construction equipment.

Accidental contact with power lines can result in serious injury or death. Until you are able to verify a power line’s voltage, always work at least 25 feet from it. This is the distance ordered by OSHA for the highest voltage lines.

For more electrical safety tips, visit



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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)