

LINES

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Beat the Heat with Ways to Save



The dog days of summer are upon us. But don't let the heat and humidity get you down. Here are ways you can be cool, stay safe and save money as you enjoy the last full month of the summer season.

Be Cool! While power supply in the region is sufficient to meet expected demand, soaring electrical use can lead to higher bills. By practicing energy conservation, you can stay cool and keep costs down by:

- Setting your air-conditioning thermostat at 78 degrees and using an electric fan, which doesn't require as much energy (and the air will seem cooler without sacrificing comfort).
- Keeping window shades, blinds or drapes closed to block the sunlight during the hottest part of the day and retain cooler air inside your home.
- Limiting the use of electrically heated water and turning off non-essential appliances and as many lights as possible.
- Postponing the use of high-energy appliances like electric stoves, washing machines, dishwashers and dryers until the evening.

Save Money and the Environment Looking for more ways to save?

- Sign up for My Account and find ways to save energy and money with an easy online home energy audit. My Account also allows you to compare, analyze and pay your bills.
- Sign up for Green Bill and save a tree! Register through My Account and check the box indicating you no longer want to receive a paper bill in the mail. After you sign up for Green Bill, you will automatically receive a monthly e-mail stating that your bill is ready to view and pay along with the amount due and due date. You also have the option to sign up for a recurring payment.

Visit pepco.com to sign up for My Account and learn about more ways to save energy and money.

Why the term "dog days"?

The dog days of summer are considered the hottest days of the year, extending from early July into early September. The star, Sirius, also known as the "dog star" (a part of the Canis Major constellation) rises and sets with the sun during this time of the year. The ancients believed that its heat added to the heat of the sun, creating a stretch of hot and sultry weather. They named this period of time "dog days." (Source: www.blurtit.com)



Stay Safe When it's Hot Outside

As the temperature climbs, remember to make safety a priority. Extreme heat can be a danger to the young as well as senior citizens and those with medical conditions.

Avoid heat stress by staying in cooled areas of your home, local shopping malls, libraries or public buildings as much as possible. If you must go outside, drink plenty of water, and don't forget a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.

If you truly enjoy exercising outdoors, take advantage of the coolest times of day—the early morning and evening hours.

And remember your pets – keep them indoors and give them plenty of water. Leave no pets or people in parked cars.

Protect Your Home and Belongings during Outages

Pepco works hard to keep your lights on, but outages can happen. Bad weather, accidents and even critters can contribute to knocking out your electric power.

During an outage, remember to turn off all your appliances, including your furnace, air conditioner, water heater and water pump. That way, you can avoid a circuit overload and another outage that may result when power is restored to all appliances at once.

Also, leave on one lamp so you'll know that the power has been restored.

Visit pepco.com for outage and emergency preparation information.



Pepco Honored for Minority Business Outreach Efforts

The Maryland Washington Minority Contractors Association (MWMCA) has named PHI (Pepco's parent company) the "Most Inclusive Utility Company of the Year for Minority Business Enterprise" for 2010. The award was presented in recognition of the company's outreach efforts to do business with minority-owned companies.

In presenting the award, MWMCA said, "PHI is the clear leader among Maryland utility companies in terms of Supplier Diversity accomplishments regarding spending, educational and professional development. They also have incorporated smart technology to track utilization of diverse spending, as well as an outside organizational support system comprising 13 separate trade organizations to link with. PHI is simply the best of class and culture of public utilities in Maryland."

The presentation recently took place at an MWMCA-hosted breakfast ceremony in Baltimore, attended by more than a thousand people, including Governor Martin O'Malley. Rhonda Mencarini, PHI Manager, Supplier Diversity, accepted the award on behalf of PHI.

