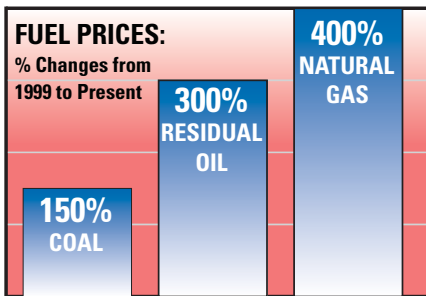


Know How To Save Energy as Prices Rise



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration

Technology has made great strides in giving consumers more energy-efficient products. But the rise in energy efficiency is being offset by a growing appetite for electricity to operate the increasing number of appliances in our homes.

Today, the average Maryland residential customer uses 10 percent more electricity than a decade ago. That statistic shouldn't come as a surprise when you consider the proliferation of personal computers and other electronic devices in homes.

Unfortunately, the growing demand for energy is coming at a time of continually rising fuel costs. When the cost of fuels used to generate electricity goes 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 above.

In June, new rates reflecting costs in the worldwide energy markets will go into effect for Pepco's Standard Offer Service (SOS) customers. Pepco purchases power through an auction to supply its SOS customers. The lowest bids are then used to reset rates for the company's more than 400,000 SOS customers in Maryland. The Maryland Public Service Commission supervises the auction and approves prices.

Please watch your mailbox in the coming weeks for more information from Pepco about the new rates and how they will affect future bills, as well as possible phase-in options.

Now, more than ever, consumers should become wise energy users to reduce consumption and keep costs down. As the weather turns warm, take the following steps to help save energy and money:

- Set your thermostat between 75 and 78 degrees to save on your home cooling costs.
- Turn off your window air conditioner when you leave the room for several hours.
- Clean or replace air conditioning filters monthly.
- Don't place lamps or television sets near your air conditioning thermostat. Heat from these appliances is sensed by the thermostat and could cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- Use duct tape to seal cracks between each section of an air duct on your forced-air system.
- Open the windows on cooler days, and during cooler hours when humidity levels are low.



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For more energy-saving ideas, visit www.pepco.com, or call 202-833-7500 and request our *85 Ways To Save Energy and Money* brochure.

energy
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The new look and feel of pepco.com offers customers an improved design for quick, easy access to the information you want.

Navigating to your favorite topics off the home page is a snap thanks to a whole new layout with bright, fresh colors. Now you're just a click away from paying your electric bill, obtaining power outage information and browsing a wealth of helpful information.

So log on now. Visit www.pepco.com and access Pepco the convenient way.

Correction

When using Pepco's voice response system at 202-833-7500, there is a small fee for paying utility bills with a credit card or debit card. The April edition of Lines incorrectly stated that this service is free. Our apologies for the confusion.

STAY SAFE IN WARMER WEATHER

May is Electrical Safety Month, but Pepco reminds you to practice electrical safety every month. Electrical shocks kill nearly 400 people in the U.S. every year, and injure thousands more, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

With the onset of summer many of us will be spending more time outdoors. Here are some safety tips for working and playing outside:

- Never touch a power line with your body or an object, such as a ladder. Coming into contact with a power line can result in serious injury or death. If you see a downed line, assume that it is live and call Pepco's downed wires number: (202) 872-3432.
- Teach children to never play around power lines, electrical substations and other electrical equipment.
- Do not fly kites or model airplanes near power lines.
- Protect outside electrical outlets. Make sure that your outside outlets have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to protect you from potential shock.
- When working near power lines always make sure there is at least 10 feet of clearance between the lines and yourself and any equipment you may be working with.
- Always wear shoes when using outdoor electrical equipment.
- When boating and you come near power lines make sure there is at least 10 feet of clearance between your boat, including masts, and power lines.



For more safety tips, visit www.pepco.com. You'll find electrical safety information for children and adults.



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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)