

Lines



A PHI Company

OCTOBER 2006

Volume 35, Issue 9

Take Control of Your Winter Heating Bills

A drop in the temperature doesn't mean there has to be a corresponding rise in your winter home heating bills. As winter and colder weather approaches, here are some things you can do to help keep those costs in check:

- Make sure your heating equipment is working properly and clean or replace the filter monthly. If it has been more than a year since your system was inspected, you may want to have it serviced by a professional. If the system is old, consider replacing it with a high-efficiency system. Such systems can reduce your energy usage, and you may qualify for an energy rebate (see story at right).
 - Dust or vacuum radiator surfaces to ensure unrestricted air flow.
 - Do not place furniture or other objects in front of vents.
 - Keep curtains and shades open during the day to let in sunlight and close them at night to help retain heat.
- (continued on reverse side)

Celebrate Energy Awareness Month

October is Energy Awareness Month – a great reason to learn more about your energy use and ways you can save on your monthly bill.

For instance, now may be a good time to upgrade the energy guzzlers in your home, such as water heaters, heating and cooling systems, washers and dryers, to today's more energy-

efficient models. That's because such purchases now qualify for government rebate programs and federal tax credits.

That means you can save in two ways. First, the more efficient equipment and appliances can lower your energy consumption, and in turn your monthly bills. Second, the purchase of many of the more efficient models may qualify for rebates.

The federal government is offering tax credits to encourage homeowners to reduce their energy usage through investing in home improvements and products that are energy efficient. To learn more about the federal tax incentives, go to www.energystar.gov or call 888-782-7937.

With today's dollar incentives for investing in wise energy use, there seems to be no better time than now.



HELP AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN NEED

Maryland residents who need help in paying their heating and electric bills may qualify for assistance through the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). The program is administered by the Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs.

For residents who are qualified and are accepted into the program, the state will assist them in paying their energy bills by making direct payments to their utility or fuel supplier.

To learn more about MEAP and to determine if you qualify, contact your local energy assistance office:

Montgomery County

Dept. of Health & Human Services

(240) 777-4450

Hours: 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Prince George's County

Dept. of Social Services

(301) 909-6300

Hours: 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

You may also visit the MEAP Web site at www.dhr.state.md.us/meap.

Important note: Pepco customers who are having difficulty paying their energy bill should contact Pepco immediately at (202) 833-7500 to discuss payment options and other assistance.

Safety Tip: Use Caution with Portable Generators

Portable generators can come in handy during periods of extended power outages, but they can also be deadly if not used properly. That's because they can produce lethal levels of carbon monoxide, especially if used indoors or too close to the home. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says more than 60 people in this country died last year due to carbon monoxide poisoning linked to portable generators. To learn more about portable generators, visit the CPSC Web site: www.cpsc.gov and type in "portable generator hazards" in the search column.

Electrical Safety and Children

Electricity makes our lives much easier and it's hard to imagine our modern world without it. Electricity, however, can also be a dangerous and even deadly force. It is never too early to teach your children about electrical safety, and an excellent source to begin that effort can be found on Pepco's Web site: www.pepco.com. Click on the "Safety & Conservation" link, and then click on the "Safety Megawatt U for Kids" link.

MEGAWATT U

Take Control of Your Winter Heating Bills (continued from front page)

- Check the weather stripping around doors and windows and replace as necessary.

For more energy conservation tips, visit our Web site at www.pepco.com. We especially recommend that you visit the "Energy Know How Solutions" link. On this site, customers can create their own personal energy profile based on the size, type and age of their home, the number of people living in it, the age of their appliances and other necessary information—all of which is used to determine ways you can save on your energy costs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



A PHI Company

701 Ninth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20068
www.pepco.com



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)