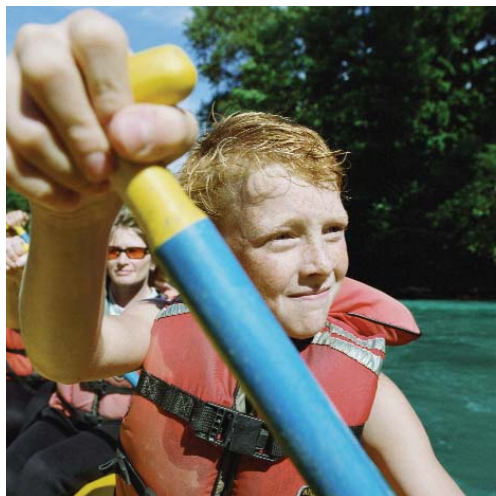


energy-saving tips for warm weather



taking responsibility

As an individual, your efficient use of energy brings benefits such as lower bills, improved comfort levels in your home and a reduced personal impact on the environment.

Acting together, our individual choices add up—for the benefit of our community, our environment and our energy future. That's the power of working together.

As your community energy company, we are committed to sharing our experience and energy expertise. You can always contact us for:

- Answers to your energy questions.
- Energy efficiency information and advice.
- Help in evaluating energy-saving options.
- Assistance in finding energy-efficient products.

You'll find comfort in these energy-saving tips

This booklet is filled with smart ways to save energy and money during warm weather and to keep you comfortable. If you don't find it here, visit mge.com or call us for more information.

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Save electricity when it helps the most

Air conditioners and dehumidifiers cause a dramatic increase in electricity use on hot summer days. To meet the demand, MGE supplies power at higher levels than needed during the rest of the year. Electricity is very expensive to produce or purchase during peak times. Saving energy reduces the peaks and controls costs.

Use electric appliances at night

Using appliances during nonpeak hours also helps to delay the need for new power plants. Shift the use of dishwashers, washing machines, electric clothes dryers and dehumidifiers to after 9 p.m. and before 10 a.m.

Energy-saving steps you can take

Steps shown in **bold type** save the most energy.

Cooling

Benefit

Set the thermostat to 78°F or higher.

Save 1% for every 1°F increase in thermostat setting when unit is running.

Turn air conditioner off when no one is home. (Use a programmable thermostat for central air or a timer for room air conditioners to start cooling before you get home.)

Save 17 to 44 cents per hour for central units. Save 8 to 17 cents per hour for room units.

Use a whole house fan, room fans or ceiling fans instead of air-conditioning. Room or ceiling fans also can allow you to be comfortable at a warmer air-conditioning setting.

Reduce cooling costs.

Cooling

Benefit

If buying a dehumidifier, look for an ENERGY STAR® model.

Save money.

Have the air conditioner serviced.

Operates more efficiently.

Shade your windows:

- Close drapes, shades or blinds during the day.
- Use reflective or white-backed shades on south and west sides. Exterior shading from awnings or trellises is even better.
- Plant shade trees to the south and west of the home.

Save money. Reduce heat from direct sunlight.

Keep heat out of house.

Reduce cooling costs.

Cook outside or use your microwave.

Reduce cooling costs.

Hang laundry outside to dry.

Save 8 to 11 cents per load for a gas dryer or 27 to 32 cents per load for an electric dryer.

Change the furnace filter every one to two months on units with central air.

Reduce cooling and dehumidification costs.

Use exhaust fans to remove heat and moisture produced from cooking and showering.

Reduce cooling and dehumidification costs. Improve indoor air quality.

Keep registers and cold-air returns clear of furniture and drapes.

Improve comfort and system efficiency.

Refrigerators

Benefit

Unplug a second refrigerator or freezer if it's not needed.

Save \$5 to \$15 per month.

Defrost a refrigerator when ice is over 1/4-inch thick.

Better heat transfer means less energy use.

Water heating, pools and spas

Benefit

Replace shower heads made before 1994.

Save water and reduce water-heating costs.

Set water heater at 120°F to 125°F.

Save money and prevent scalding.

Insulate pre-1990 water heaters, especially electric.

Recover the cost in six months.

Fix leaky faucets. Use faucet aerators.

Save water and energy.

Insulate the first 5 feet of cold water pipes and all hot water pipes. Start 3 inches above the vent opening.

Use precut tubes, it's easy, and payback is less than five years.

Turn water heater control down to vacation or pilot setting when gone for two or more days.

Save about \$4 per week.

Use pool cover.

Cut heat loss 70% to 90%.

Keep pool heater thermostat at lowest comfortable setting.

Save money.

Operate pool and spa filters 10 to 12 hours per night on a timer.

Cut filtration energy cost in half.

Convert electric pool heater to natural gas or solar.

Cut cost by 50% or more.

Lighting

Benefit

Replace the most-used incandescent bulbs and fixtures with fluorescent.

Fluorescent lighting uses one-third the energy used by incandescent. Reduce cooling costs.

Install solid-state dimmer switches for incandescent lights.

Save energy.

Use photo-eyes, motion detectors and timers to turn lights on and off. Turn lights off when not in use.

Keep your house cooler. 100 watts for 10 hours = 11 cents.

Replace halogen torchieres with ENERGY STAR fluorescent torchieres. The 300- to 500-watt halogen bulbs can reach 1,000°F!

Save more than \$200 over 7 years. Keep your home cooler.

Keep bulbs and fixtures clean.

Get more light.

Appliances

Benefit

Switch from an electric to a natural gas dryer.

Reduce drying costs by more than 55%.

Cook in a microwave oven rather than stove.

Heat food faster with less energy. Reduce cooling costs.

Use cold water to wash clothes.

Save 12 to 25 cents per load.

Hang laundry outside to dry.

Savings per load:

- 10 to 13 cents for a gas dryer.
- 32 to 41 cents for an electric dryer.

If dryer is vented with plastic vent hose, replace with metallic vent pipe.

Reduce drying costs. Prevent dryer fires.

Run the dishwasher at night.

Reduce cooling costs and daytime humidity.

Appliances (continued)

Benefit

Wash a full load of dishes in the dishwasher.

Save hot water, electricity and detergent.

Use the dishwasher's air-dry or energy-saver cycle.

Save up to 8 cents per drying cycle.

Clean the clothes dryer lint trap after each load.

Dry faster and safer and save money.

Turn off TV, radio and stereo when not at home.

Save electricity and keep your home cooler.

Vacuum in the early morning or evening.

Save electricity and keep your home cooler.

Home Office

Benefit

Purchase ENERGY STAR monitors, printers and computers. Use low-power features.

Save money and reduce heat produced.

Shut off equipment that is not in use.

Save money and reduce heat produced.

Use energy-efficient lights.

Save money and reduce heat produced.

Major appliance purchases/remodeling

Benefit

Replace refrigerators manufactured before 1990 with new ENERGY STAR models.

Save \$70 to \$135 per year.

Insulate and ventilate attic. Insulate walls.

Save money and be more comfortable.

Purchase an ENERGY STAR air conditioner.

Save energy and money.

Energy-saving standards

Save more energy at home. Our *Energy-Savings Standards* brochure offers checklists to help select products with important energy-saving features.



Look for this symbol when you shop



ENERGY STAR labeled products use less energy than other products. They reduce your energy costs and help to protect the environment. We're an ENERGY STAR partner. Learn more about qualifying products at www.energystar.gov or call MGE at 252-7117.

listening. learning.

MGE takes responsibility to provide information and education to serve our customers and stakeholders. We educate customers today to help inform their decision making. We educate tomorrow's stakeholders so they can help plan our energy future.

If we all reduce our central air conditioner use by just 10%,
we will save enough coal to fill 60 railroad cars.

Working together we can make a difference.

Contact us for information about:


- Heating/Air-conditioning.
- Insulating/Weatherizing.
- Lighting.
- Windows/Doors.
- Appliances.
- Water heating.

Get more home energy information at:

- mge.com/home.
- Home Energy Line 608-252-7117.
- 800-245-1125.

Questions about billing? Call:

- 608-252-7222.
- 800-245-1125.

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your community energy company