



Make Pittsburgh Even Cooler in July:

Reduce your home energy use
and choose green energy

As the summer heats up, start making Pittsburgh cooler by saving energy in your home. This will save you money and help reduce global warming pollution.

- **Turn your air conditioner thermostat up two degrees:**

One of the cheapest and best ways to reduce your summer energy bills is to adjust your thermostat. For every degree you set your thermostat above 78 degrees, you can save 3 to 5 percent on your energy bills. This will be a breeze if you also add a fan. Fans can make you feel 3 to 4 degrees cooler and they also cost less to run than air conditioning. On top of the money that you save, raising your temperature by two degrees can also save 252 pounds of heat-trapping gases from being released into the air each year.

- **Air dry your clothes:**

Clothes dryers are the third highest user of energy of all the appliances in your home, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. This is because they need a lot of energy to make heat for drying. Instead, save all that energy and money by air drying your clothes. In fact, choosing to air dry just half of your clothes can avoid about 756 pounds of heat-trapping gases from being released into the air each year. You don't even need an outdoor clothesline; you can set up a drying rack in a well-ventilated space indoors.

- **What is green energy and how can I get it?**

Green energy uses materials that produce little or no global warming pollution, unlike coal and fuel oil. Wind and solar power are classic examples of green energy. Instead of being used up, these can be used over and over again. The U.S. Department of Energy says that for every unit (one kilowatt-hour) of green energy that is made, one pound of global warming pollution is saved from going into the air.

Duquesne Light customers can purchase green energy by adding one of the following to their regular electricity bill:

1. Community Energy, Inc. – provides green power through 100 percent wind power. Call 866-WIND-123 or visit www.NewWind.Energy.com for more information. The cost of buying this type of green energy starts at an additional \$5 per month for 200kWh of power.
2. PPL EnergyPlus – Call 1-877-PPL-RECS or visit www.pplrenewables.com to find out more. Prices start at an additional \$4 per month. Three program options are available to support the development of renewable resources at the local, regional, and national level.
3. Native Energy – provides clean wind power through its *CoolWatts*sm 100% New Wind program. Visit <http://www.nativeenergy.com/pages/coolwatts/32.php> for more information. You can buy enough wind energy to cover all your electricity use or just part, starting at \$2 per month for 200 kWh of power.

If you are interested in information on installing your own wind, solar or other green power system for a home or small business, head to my.pennfuture.org/buygreenpower for information about all the existing programs, grants, and tax rebates at the state and federal level as of April 2009.

- **What is peak energy and why does it matter?**

Peak demand is defined as hours when there is the greatest need for electricity during a given period. In the summer, peak occurs during a hot afternoon when everyone has an air conditioner running. In the winter, peak can occur when homes and businesses crank up the heat to beat the winter chill. Our electric system is required to maintain very expensive and little-used peaking power plants to meet this demand. In fact, almost 20 percent of the cost to serve a residential customer annually is due to the cost of insuring adequate supply during times of peak demand.

Peak energy prices can be almost five times as expensive as non-peak prices due to a shortage of supply and increased demand. In addition, peaking power plants tend to be less efficient than those plants that run continuously. This process of bringing more power plants on to meet peak demand drives up the cost of electricity, produces additional global warming pollution, and increases prices for you.

Most electricity customers are unaware of how expensive peak power is since electricity bills are an average of prices. However, you can still save money and help reduce global warming by reducing your energy use during peak hours. Each unit of energy (one kilowatt-hour) you save prevents 1.4 pounds of heat-trapping gases from going into the air. Here are a few ways to start reducing your peak energy use:

- Turn off your lights in unused rooms.
- Limit your heating and cooling use, especially during peak hours.
- Unplug appliances when they're not in use - especially ones that keep using electricity even when you're not using them, like microwaves and battery chargers.
- Schedule your electricity use for the cheaper, not more expensive, times. You can start doing your laundry early in the morning, running your dishwasher late at night, and charging your electronics at night.

- **Track Your Progress**

Go to our website (www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com) and fill in the tracking form so we can measure how much we're all cutting our heat-trapping gases. No computer? No problem. Call us at 412-258-6680 or fill in one of the postcards available throughout the city.