

Butler Public Power District



The Kitchen Workhorse

It does not matter whether you are eating at home or dining out. Your kitchen's refrigerator is keeping your cold foods cold and your frozen foods frozen every day of the year. What and how you store food in your refrigerator can affect the amount of energy that is consumed. Make the right choices and over the course of 12 months, the savings can add up!

The main purpose of refrigerating and freezing is to ensure your food is kept safely for consumption at some later time. It's true, care must be taken to keep foods cold enough to inhibit spoiling. But there is no advantage to over-cooling, and it will cost you extra money!

Refrigerators and freezers should not be set too cold. Refrigerators should maintain a temperature of 37 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Freezers should be at 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Stand alone freezers for long storage can be set at 0 degrees Fahrenheit. To check your refrigerator's temperature, set a thermometer in a glass of water in the center of the appliance. Read the thermometer after 24 hours. For a freezer, place a thermometer between packages. Again, read

the thermometer after 24 hours.

Keeping your refrigerator full actually helps increase energy efficiency because there is less air to cool. Be careful not to overfill though. Overfilling your refrigerator can hinder air circulation. Also, keep liquids covered and make sure to wrap foods when they are stored in the refrigerator. Not only will uncovered foods dry out and have their taste ruined, but the moisture that is released from uncovered foods causes the refrigerator's compressor to run longer.

Check to make sure the coils behind and under the refrigerator are cleaned on a regular basis. Keeping coils clean allows for better airflow over the coils resulting in the cooling unit's compressor running less than if the coils were dirty. Another important task that should be done regularly is defrosting the freezer, if the unit is not a frost-free model. Frost buildup exceeding one quarter of an inch will decrease the unit's energy efficiency.

Here's another money saving tip: Make sure there is no air leakage around the refrigerator's door seals. When cold air escapes, the compressor runs longer to replace it. To see if your unit needs new seals, perform the "dollar bill" test. Place a dollar bill between the door and the unit. Close the door. If the bill slides out easily, air is leaking and the hinges and/or seals need to be fixed. If it is difficult to pull out the bill, the seal on the door is in good shape.



Lastly, make sure your refrigerator is in the right location. Though location is often limited by electrical and water hookups, making sure that there is proper air flow around the refrigerator can help it run more efficiently. If the appliance is stored between cabinets, make sure that nothing stored around the unit hinders its airflow. If possible, refrigerators should not be located near windows, stoves, or ovens. Heat from the sun or cooking appliances can cause the refrigerator to expend more energy to keep cool.

If you are considering replacing your main refrigerator, or if you no longer have need for an older, secondary unit, you may be interested in the EnergyWiseSM Refrigerator Recycling Program. You can take advantage of the program by calling 866-444-9160 or visiting www.jacoinc.net to schedule a free pick up. Customers should be sure to have their utility bill in hand when scheduling. Refrigerators or freezers must be between 10 and 30 cubic feet in size and be operational at the time of pick-up. Not only will you be saving money on your electric bill and helping recycle valuable materials, you are eligible for \$35!

THIS ISSUE

The Kitchen Workhorse

From the Desk of the General Manager —
Rainy Days and Mondays

Important Note -- EnergyWise Incentives

Going from Room to Room...
Bedroom



From the desk of...
the General Manager



Rainy Days and Mondays

Conversations begin here in the Midwest with, "How about this weather?" It is either, too hot, too dry, too windy..... The start of this century presented us with a seven of eight year drought, at times we even had to water the fields just to get the seeds to germinate. But, this past year has seen a pendulum swing in weather events.

Recently we've observed or been hammered by storms, tornadoes, and flooding. We've seen communities devastated across the Midwest. Sadly, many families have lost loved ones, homes and their precious belongings. Missouri River flows are at record levels, devastating farmland, roadways, and cities alike.

As challenging as the Midwest weather has been, those devastated by the tragic events in Japan will not soon recover, and many may never recover. We were saddened as we watched videos of the tsunami as it wreaked havoc on thousands of Japanese. We still do not know the effects of Fukushima's radioactive leaks.

Seeing pictures of water totally surrounding Nebraska's two nuclear plants causes us to wonder as well. Both federal and utility officials state clearly that both Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station and Cooper Nuclear Station are safe and will remain safe. And as floodwaters rise, further efforts will be taken by the utilities and federal regulators to maintain the facilities' security. However, they're generation output may be decreased and future repair costs will affect each consumer of electricity. And, the Missouri River floods will remain a concern for most of the summer, maybe longer.

As a director on the Nebraska Water Resources Association Board we've been wrestling with the importance of agriculture in Nebraska along with the negative impacts of a dwindling water supply. And this year more water will flow out of Nebraska than has been available for a number of years. Now would be an excellent time to resolve limited water supply issues.

We in Butler and Saunders Counties have not directly felt the same level of impact as those near the Missouri River, but it does affect us none the less. I am hopeful that we can get through the rest of this summer without further damage from Mother Nature. If you have any comments about our summer operation, please let me know. Call me at 800 230-0569 or email at gwest@butlerppd.com.



IMPORTANT NOTE -- ENERGYWISE INCENTIVES

Please be aware that the amount of EnergyWise incentives available will most likely be reduced for 2012. While we are unsure of what programs that will be affected at this time, Butler PPD would like to advise everyone thinking of doing any energy efficiency upgrades to take advantages of the programs that are available now. The possible reduction of incentive amounts and programs available is in an effort from NPPD, our wholesale power supplier, to reduce the impending price increases. Our current programs are listed on page 3. Please contact Wade Rahn at (800) 230-0569 or wrahn@butlerppd.com for more information.

ENERGYWISE
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

Energy Efficiency Programs

offered by



PLEASE ALWAYS CONFIRM PROGRAMS AS THEY MAY CHANGE

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<p>Attic Insulation Must have less than 6" insulation Must have electric heat Add 6" new insulation</p> <p>Incentive \$0.15 per square foot of attic Maximum \$300.00</p>
<p>Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Must be in working condition 10 - 30 cubic feet units eligible Convenient in-home pickup Available late spring - early fall</p> <p>Incentive \$35.00 Maximum 2 per household</p>

<p>Installation of High Efficiency Heat Pump Minimum of 8.2 HSPF</p> <p>Incentive Air Source Heat Pump 14 SEER = \$200.00 15 SEER = \$250.00 16 SEER = \$300.00</p> <p>Ground Source/Geothermal Any EER = \$400.00</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2.5% Low Energy Loan</p> <p>Installing Contractor Incentive \$100.00 If unit performs within 10% of manufacturer's specifications</p>

<p>Cooling System Tune Up Central Air Conditioner Air Source Heat Pump Geothermal Heat Pump</p> <p>Incentive \$30.00 Maximum 1 time every 3 years</p>
<p>Purchase of Energy Star Window Air Conditioner Must be Energy Star Rated</p> <p>Incentive \$30.00</p>

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HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) - 2 Programs

System Optimization

Incentive
Paid dependent on energy savings achieved
No maximum

Replacement

Incentive
\$100.00—No Maximum
Paid on number of and efficiency of the unit

Lighting - 2 Programs

Fixture/Lamp Replacement
Dependent on what is replaced and used

Incentive
\$6.00 - \$75.00 per fixture
\$0.75 - \$2.00 per lamp

Custom
Used when other lighting program are not applicable

Incentive
Variable dependent on energy savings

Irrigation

Efficiency Test

Incentive
Pays for cost of the test up to \$350.00

Efficiency Upgrade

Incentive
Average Annual Energy Savings x \$0.20 kWh

Premium Efficiency Motor
Must meet specific efficiency requirements
Horse Power Dependent

Incentive
\$10.00 - \$400.00

VFD (Variable Frequency Drive)
Not to be used for replacement of VFD
Not used with Irrigation Efficiency Upgrade Program
1 - 200 Horsepower Motors

Incentive
\$30.00 per Horsepower

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Going from room to room...Each month a room of the house will be featured informing you of numerous efficiency tips .

As with most energy efficiency, a little knowledge and effort can help you start saving on your utility bill. **Bedrooms** are not typical not thought of as a room that you can be more energy efficient but one household item that is overlooked is your bed. Yes, beds are a place that you can save energy. Waterbeds use more energy than most people think and they can be the second biggest power user in some homes. One way to combat this is to keep waterbed made with a comforter which will insulate the water. Also keep the thermostat for the heater set as low as you can while maintaining a comfortable temperature.



Electric blankets can also be an energy saver by keeping you warm thus allowing you to turn down your homes thermostat. A king size blanket only uses about 1 kWh per night so in a whole heating season it might cost approximant \$10 to operate but for each degree you set your home's thermostat lower you can save up to 2 percent of your heating cost.

The following are some tips that can be found on www.energystar.gov.

Bed-Side Lamp- Replace fixtures and bulbs with ENERGY STAR qualified lighting products. ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) provide high-quality light output, use less energy and last up to 10 times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs, saving money on energy bills and replacement costs.

Light Switch - Remember to always turn off your lights when leaving a room.

Room Air Conditioner - ENERGY STAR qualified room air conditioners often include timers for better temperature control, allowing you to use the minimum amount of energy you need to cool your room.

In the winter, be sure to insulate room air conditioners from the outside with a tight-fitting A/C unit cover. This keeps heated air from escaping outside. Alternately, you can remove the window unit in the winter months to prevent energy losses.

Be sure the window unit fits tightly in the window so outdoor air is not getting in and remember, proper capacity sizing is important for room air conditioners too!

Keep in mind Butler PPD has a \$30 EnergyWise Incentive available if you purchase a new ENERGY STAR unit!

Window - During the winter months, replace your screens with storm windows to provide an extra barrier to the cold outside air. Also, caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors that leak air.

Air Register - Make sure that the connections at vents and registers are well-sealed where they meet the floors, walls, and ceiling. These are common locations to find leaks and disconnected ductwork. Also make sure that all vents are clear of any furniture or rugs to improve air flow and comfort.

TV/DVD Combo - Look for the ENERGY STAR on consumer electronics products. Qualified products use less energy without sacrificing quality or performance. Consumer electronics play an increasingly larger role in your home's energy consumption, accounting for 15 percent of household electricity use. Many consumer electronics products use energy even when switched off. Electronics equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR help save energy when off, while maintaining features like clock displays, channel settings, and remote-control functions.

Outlet -Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when not in use.

Butler Public Power District

Serving Butler and Saunders Counties Electrically

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