

# Your Energy Connection



June 2014

## Top 10 Ways to Save Energy this Summer

### 1. Manage the cooling system efficiently.

Install a programmable thermostat and set it at the highest comfortable temperature. Rocky Mount Public Utilities (RMPU) recommends 78°F. Each degree below 78 adds about 3-5% to your energy costs.

### 2. Use ceiling fans.

Ceiling fans evaporate moisture on the skin, making you feel cooler without adding to the energy costs. *Remember that fans cool people not rooms, so turn them off when you leave the room!*

### 3. Block direct heat.

Keep drapes, curtains, shades, and blinds closed during the day.

### 4. Cook outdoors when possible.

Cooking outdoors creates less heat in the house and uses less energy. *Consider switching to a natural gas grill to extend the outdoor season!*

When you must cook indoors, use a microwave or toaster oven. Small electric appliances use less energy than a large stove or full-sized oven.

### 5. Seal air leaks.

One of the quickest energy- and money-saving tasks you can do is prevent air infiltration by caulking, sealing, and weather-stripping all seams, cracks and openings to the outside of the home.

### 6. Replace air filters each month.

A plugged filter causes the HVAC system to work harder and use more energy. Clean or replace filters on furnaces and air conditioners once per month. *An easy way to remember is to replace the filter when the rent or mortgage is due!*

### 7. Check the temperature settings on your refrigerator and freezer.

The refrigerator fresh food compartment should be set to 37°-40°F, and the freezer section should be set to 5°F. Separate, long-term storage freezers should be kept at 0°F.

### 8. Wash clothes in cold water.

Unless you're dealing with oily stains, the cold water setting will generally do a good job of cleaning clothes. Switching the temperature can cut a load's energy usage in half.

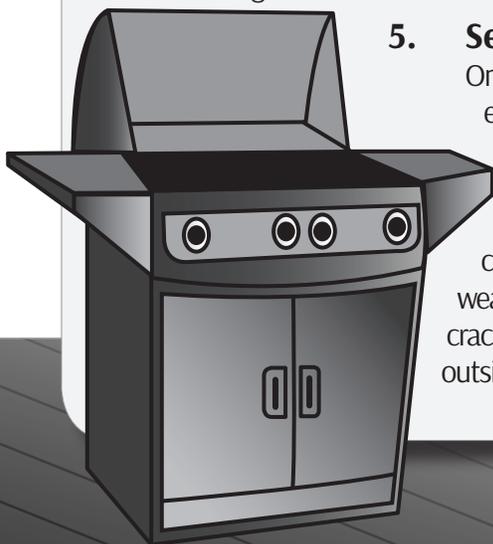
### 9. Lower your home's water temperature.

Set the water heater thermostat to 120°F. *Consider switching to natural gas or tankless for up to 30% additional energy savings!*

### 10. Plant a tree.

Plant deciduous trees (i.e. those that lose their leaves) on the south and west facing sides of the home. *Remember to call 811 before beginning any digging project, including planting trees and shrubs.*

Visit [utilities.rockymountnc.gov](http://utilities.rockymountnc.gov) for more energy-saving tips and tools, such as Energy Depot and TempTracker365.



## Energy Share funds still available!

The City of Rocky Mount Energy Share program funds are still available for RMPU electric and natural gas customers. Receive a cash rebate of up to \$500 for attic insulation and/or up to \$500 for a new HVAC system. Program requirements apply. Call Community Development at (252) 972-1102 for information or to request an application.

## Natural Gas: Read All About It!

Visit RMPU online at [www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/communications.html](http://www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/communications.html) to see the second edition of the online magazine, *The Lifestyle Source*, published by The American Public Gas Association (APGA).

### In this issue...

- The best way to grill comes naturally
- Natural Gas delivers for America
- Know What's Below
- Fuel up with Natural Gas
- Prepare for Hurricane Season
- Efficient homes
- Don't fall for utility bill scams



Use your smartphone to scan the QR code for quick access. *Free QR-code readers are available for download from your app store.*

## Save Money on your Electric Bill!

Sign up for the **Load Management Program** to receive one or more of the following billing credits:



**Water Heater:**  
\$2/month  
January through December



**Central Air Conditioner:**  
\$20/month  
July August September



**Heat Strips:**  
\$15/month  
January February March

By using Load Management switches, RMPU is able to hold down the cost of providing power. These savings are passed on to you in the form of a monthly credit on your electricity bill. There is no cost to you for the switches or installation.

(252) 467-4803  
[utilities.rockymountnc.gov](http://utilities.rockymountnc.gov)



## Save Energy with CFLs!

A great way to save money on energy costs is to switch from incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). ENERGY STAR certified CFLs use 75% less energy and last 10 to 25 times longer than incandescents.

ENERGY STAR certified bulbs also provide the same brightness (lumens) as incandescents with less energy (watts). (Lumens indicate light output; watts indicate energy consumed.) Use the following chart when shopping for CFLs to determine how many lumens you need to match the brightness of your old incandescent bulbs.

| Incandescent Bulbs (Watts) | ENERGY STAR Bulb Brightness (Minimum Lumens) |
|----------------------------|--|
| 40                         | 450  |
| 60                         | 800  |
| 75                         | 1,100  |
| 100                        | 1,600  |
| 150                        | 2,600  |

For more information, visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

## “Do’s and Don’ts” for Planting Around Transformers

### DO’S

- **DO** ensure that the top and front of the transformer are free of any obstructing material so that it is clearly visible.
- **DO** ensure that a 5 foot clearance is maintained around the sides and back of the transformer. *Trees planted within 15 feet of the transformer may eventually require removal if tree roots or foliage hinder service or maintenance of the transformer.*

### DON'TS

- **DO NOT** place fencing, shrubs, trees, plants, and flowers, around the transformer. This could hinder the ability of the City to service, repair or inspect the transformer.
- **DO NOT** place pine straw or compost around the base of the transformer.
- **DO NOT** plant any shrubs or bushes that bear thorns or sharp protrusions or any variety of running vine (e.g. ivy) that will grow over the transformer.

Obstructions found by repair or inspection crews will be removed without notice to the resident. For information or questions about planting, visit [www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/trees.html](http://www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/trees.html) or contact Allen Richardson at 252-467-4856.

