Summer Home Energy Saving Tips

Cooling Systems

- Make sure furniture and draperies are not blocking cooling outlets. Blocked outlets restrict air circulation, overwork the cooling equipment and increase operating costs.
- Use ceiling fans to assist in cooling. In the summer, blades should rotate counterclockwise when viewed from below.
- Make sure your air conditioner filter is clean and replace filters as needed. Also consider letting a professional tune up your air conditioner to maximize its efficiency.

Living Areas

- Close off rooms that are not used directly for cooling, so rooms most used by the household will remain cool.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows that leak air.
- Adding insulation and sealing air leaks will help keep the cool air inside.
- Close drapes, shades and blinds during the day to keep the sunlight from heating up your home.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Turn off lights when they are not needed.
- Turn off computers, monitors, printers and televisions during periods of non-use. These devices use energy even when in standby mode.

Kitchen/Laundry

- Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator and check for frost buildup in refrigerators and freezers because it causes an appliance to work harder.
- Shift the use of heat-producing and major appliances such as ovens, dishwashers, clothes dryers and irons from midday to early in the morning or later at night when possible.
- Try to wash full loads in the dishwasher, and use the short cycle.
- Use your microwave, toaster oven, slow cooker, broiler oven or other energy saving appliances for cooking food.
- Turn down the temperature on your water heater to 115 degrees.
- Cover pans when cooking on a stove top and use exhaust fans periodically, as required, to reduce indoor humidity.
- Avoid using extension cords with appliances because they cut the efficiency of the appliance.
- Wash clothes in cold water with a cold water detergent.
- Wash full loads of laundry for maximum efficiency.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy — Energy Savers Tips

For More Information

The Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates investor-owned water, sewer, natural gas, electric and steam utilities. The PSC also has limited jurisdiction over telecommunications providers in Missouri. The PSC works to ensure Missouri citizens receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services. If you have an inquiry, billing question or service-related issue that your utility provider cannot answer, please call the PSC at 1-800-392-4211 or visit our website at psc.mo.gov.