

# Upstate New York

National Grid

Nov/Dec

## ENERGY IN ACTION

for our electric customers

# 2008

### This issue

- ▶ Save money and the environment
- ▶ Unplug for savings
- ▶ Manage "peaks and valleys"

## Put our energy efficiency tips to work this winter.

Saving money on your electric bill means following energy-saving practices around your home and this helps reduce your impact on the environment.

Here is a list of ideas that can help you make saving energy—and saving on energy costs—easier and more effective:

- ▶ Replace lights with ENERGY STAR® light bulbs
- ▶ Turn off lights when not in use
- ▶ Wash your cloths in cold water
- ▶ Repair leaky facets and save on your electric hot water
- ▶ Clean dryer filter
- ▶ When buying new appliances, always choose energy-efficient appliances

### Energy-Savings and safety tips for a "green" holiday season

- ▶ Check Holiday lights—new and old—for

broken bulbs, frayed wires, and loose connections. Also, check the wiring to ensure that it has not frayed or cut as it could possibly cause a fire.

- ▶ Use UL safety approved holiday lights, select LED bulbs or use low wattage bulbs.
- ▶ Check circuits, outlets and extension cords. Make sure they are not over loaded.
- ▶ Don't use indoor lights outdoors—they are not waterproof and, don't use outdoor lights indoors, they burn hotter than indoor lights.
- ▶ Don't leave holiday lights on while you are asleep or away from your home. Placing lights on a timer is an easy way to ensure lights are turned off at night—not only as a safety measure, but energy efficiency as well.
- ▶ If you haven't already installed smoke detectors throughout your house, now would be a good time and check the batteries annually.

## Your small actions can lead to big results.

### Unplug it and save.

Did you know that some electrical adapters and chargers, as well as many other electronic devices with digital clocks, timers and memory, use small amounts of electricity when not in use? You can save money by unplugging some of these devices and taking other steps to make your home more energy efficient. *Here's a tip: Combine several adapters and chargers into a single power strip. With just the flip of a switch to the "off" position, you'll be saving energy and money without the hassle of plugging each item.*

### Change to fluorescent light bulbs.

Changing to fluorescent light bulbs is an easy and cost-efficient way for you to reduce your energy consumption. If every U.S. household changed just one light bulb to an ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent bulb, we'd save more than \$18 million in annual energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 8 million cars.

ENERGY STAR® qualified lighting lowers energy costs and helps protect our natural resources by using less electricity and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Saving energy and the environment go hand in hand. Recycling used compact fluorescent bulbs further protects the environment and preserves natural resources. Visit [www.thinksmarthinkgreen.com](http://www.thinksmarthinkgreen.com) for more information.

Save time. Save trees. Get and pay bills online  
@ [www.nationalgridus.com/payonline](http://www.nationalgridus.com/payonline)

**nationalgrid**

The power of action.

## Discover the power of action at floe.

We all have the power of action. Explore how your carbon savings impact the environment and your energy bill by visiting [www.nationalgrid.com/floe](http://www.nationalgrid.com/floe).



By answering a few questions, you'll be able to see how simple changes in your daily life can help reduce your carbon footprint and save money on your energy bill. Take action to save on energy costs and learn how the choices you make at home determine how much energy you use and how that energy use impacts the environment.

To learn more about floe and the impact of your energy choices go to [www.nationalgrid.com/floe](http://www.nationalgrid.com/floe).

## Take the "peaks and valleys" out of paying your energy bills.

To better manage your energy costs, consider our Budget Plan which spreads out your annual energy costs over a full year to lessen the impact of high seasonal bills. How does it work? National Grid looks at your energy use over the past 12 months and other factors to estimate your monthly payment going forward. This amount is reviewed every three months and adjusted—up or down—as needed, to prevent you from having a large credit or balance due at the end of your Budget Plan year. You pay only for the energy you use.

There are no fees to join, and you may cancel at any time.

For more information regarding this plan and other payment options, please go to [www.nationalgridus.com/paymentoptions](http://www.nationalgridus.com/paymentoptions).



## HEAP helps with home heating.

Every year, the federally funded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) assists income-eligible families in paying their energy bills. HEAP payments vary depending on household income, household composition and heating fuel costs in relation to income.

If your household receives public assistance (Family Assistance or Safety Net), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or food stamps, you are probably eligible for HEAP benefits. If your household is not receiving public assistance, you may be eligible if your gross monthly household income is at or

below income guidelines for your household size. Eligibility is determined by your county Department of Social Services.

If you're 59 or under and applying for the first time, call your county Department of Social Services. If over 60, call your local New York State Office for the Aging. You can also call the HEAP hotline at **1-800-342-3009**.

HEAP funding is limited, therefore, if you feel you may qualify for the funds, please contact HEAP immediately—applications are being accepted beginning now for the 2008-2009 heating season.

## It's your "mostly" electric bill. The difference between supply and delivery costs.

With the increasing costs of energy, you probably have an increased interest in what makes up your electric bill. It may help to think of your electric bill as your "mostly" electric bill since as much as two-thirds of your annual cost is for the electricity you use. This electric supply cost is passed along directly to you—at the price that we pay—from the companies that sell us the electricity.

The other cost is to deliver the electricity to your home. These delivery costs are for system operating and maintenance costs, taxes and other consumer programs and services. All costs that appear on your bill are regulated, and are carefully formulated to ensure that the company delivers electricity safely, reliably and efficiently.

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Это очень важное сообщение. Пожалуйста, попросите чтобы вам его перевели.