SUMMER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Keep thermostat at 78; every degree you drop below 78 will increase your bill by 3%. Use ceiling fans to keep the air circulating. When the outside temperature rises above 100, you can raise your thermostat to 80 while you’re not home and save a little more.

Close curtains and blinds on the sunny side of your house.

Change the air conditioner filter on a regular basis.

Have your air conditioner system inspected and cleaned.

Install a programmable thermostat. You can program several temperature adjustments throughout the day. Then you can keep the house warmer when no one is home and program the temperature to cool down a little 30 minutes before you return.

Use compact fluorescent bulbs in the lights you use the most.

Caulk or add weather stripping around doors and windows.

Computers, printers, modems, satellite dishes, VCR’s, TV’s, any electronic device uses electricity even when off. Put them on a power strip and turn off the power strip when not using.

Not using it? UNPLUG IT.

Don’t run your washer, dryer or dishwasher unless full. Let dishes air dry instead of using the heat element in your dishwasher. Wash clothes in cold water. Dryers run a long time. Check clothes part way through the drying cycle; they may be dry. Clean your dryer’s lint tray after each drying cycle. Also make sure your dryer vent is not clogged with lint.

Set your water heater to 120.

Vacuum your refrigerator coils.

Cook in your microwave, crockpot or outdoor grill instead of heating up your stove and oven.

Turn off water while brushing your teeth. A family of 4 will waste 11,000 gallons a year.

Repair dripping faucets inside and out and running toilets.

Water your yard before 10am or after 6pm. You lose less to evaporation. Also don’t water on windy days or when rain is forecast.

Set your mower on “high”. Taller grass helps the soil hold moisture.

Take short showers instead of baths.