

Currents



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Your Link to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative



High Voltage. . .



Energy Savings Can Fund Summer Fun!

For consumers going on vacation this summer, the nation's electric utilities advise them to make sure their home's energy use takes a vacation as well. Simple tips can save consumers money while they are away.

Air Conditioning

Set the thermostat to 85 degrees. If it is a programmable thermostat, use the "hold" or the "vacation" setting to keep it at that temperature. Be sure to call a good friend and have them set it to a more comfortable temperature the day you return.

Electronics

Computers, CD/DVD players, TVs, and VCRs - these and other electronic appliances use electricity, even when they are not turned on. Unplug them before leaving.

Lighting

Consumers can increase their energy savings, and their home's security, by using timers to operate lights each night. And by installing compact fluorescent bulbs (CFs) in those lamps, consumers will be saving more energy, up to 66 percent less in each lamp, and the bulb will last approximately 10 times longer than a regular incandescent bulb.

Water Heating

Turn the water heater's temperature down to the lowest setting. Many water heaters have a "vacation" setting.

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Commentary from the Chairman

Landscaping for Energy Conservation

Notice a theme in this issue? Yes, its conservation. The majority of our articles on conservation focus on what you can do to your home (and by extension, to your business). However, what you choose to do with the plantings in your yard can also help save energy. Perhaps the most common example is the windbreak in the Midwest. There, the wind sweeps out of Canada and runs unabated for hundreds of miles across table-flat land. The hardy folks who settled the Great Plains learned quickly that a "hedge" of trees around their homes served to increase their comfort when those winds were chilled well below freezing.

The objectives of landscaping for energy conservation are pretty simple: block weather effects that impact the home. In short, keep cold winds at bay and block heat in summer with shade. Here are some excerpts from the green builder website:

Definition: "Energy conserving landscapes" reduce energy costs in a home during summer and winter. Ideally, the energy conserving landscape is also a water conserving landscape.

Considerations: It is possible to achieve as much as a 30% reduction in cooling and heating costs through careful landscape planning. Landscaping can reduce direct sun from striking and heating up building surfaces. It can prevent reflected light carrying heat into a house from the ground or other surfaces. By reducing wind velocity, an energy conserving landscape slows air leakage in a house. Additionally, the shade created by trees and the effect of grass and shrubs will reduce air temperatures adjoining the house and provide evaporative cooling.

The use of dense tree and shrub plantings on the west and northwest sides of a home will block the summer setting sun. This is the most effective

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landscape planting strategy. Additional considerations include the use of deciduous trees on the south side of the house that will admit summer sun; evergreen plantings on the north side will slow cold winter winds; constructing a natural planted channel to funnel summer cooling breezes into the house.

Carefully evaluate existing plants at a building site to identify those that can play a role in an energy conserving landscape. The established plants will require less effort to maintain and will generally be of a larger size and better established than new plantings.

Energy Costs



Read the entire article at <http://www.green-builder.com/sourcebook/LandscapingEnergy.html>

Properly implemented, your landscaping can save substantial amounts of energy and add value to your home. Sounds like a win-win

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The Greenest Dollar

and the Tale of the Simplest Thing That Could Possibly Work

By Tom Tate

Jim Bausell, COO of Touchstone Energy and the speaker at our 70th annual meeting (you were there, weren't you?) made the comment, "*The greenest dollar you can find is the one you never spend because you did not use the energy to begin with.*" You avoid the energy use via simple conservation and intelligent choices when buying energy consuming appliances and devices. No new energy sources required - and the existing sources go farther!

Conservation will have an immediate impact on your budget and on our national energy situation. The example Mr. Bausell used was replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent (CF) ones. Replacing every incandescent bulb in America would save 10% of all energy used annually. Wow, that was easy and it can be convenient. In my home, I used CFs with 7-year lives in a fixture 15 feet in the air. In addition to saving energy, I don't need to drag a ladder into the front hall to replace bulbs regularly.

The title of this article refers to the simplest thing that could work. Why is simple so important? A former head of NASA (you know, the rocket scientist guys) puts it this way, "*Complex problems require simple solutions. Extremely complex problems require extremely simple solutions.*" Finding ways to reduce our dependence on fossil energy sources and reduce all manner of pollutants falls squarely in the "extremely complex" category. The problem is, I am seeing mostly extremely complex, government developed solutions. Such solutions are invariably very costly, hard to implement and harder to maintain. Don't get me wrong. We will need sophisticated new technologies but those are years off. Why don't we start today with good, old fashioned conservation?

Conservation, when coupled with efficiency improvements in appliances, will reduce more in the way of carbon emissions than what we can expect from renewables like solar and wind. It's simple and everyone can participate. In fact, you

can begin right now, or after you finish this article if you prefer.

I will admit to a bias towards conservation. Many of my previous articles have dealt with this very topic. I came to conservation by accident, actually. Right out of college and looking for a few extra bucks, I noticed a local company advertising that it would pay cash for aluminum cans (\$.10 per pound to be precise). So, I started saving my, um, "soda" cans and cashing them in from time to time. Painless and it started me on the recycling habit. As recycling programs were launched where I lived, I branched into paper, glass and steel and never noticed any disruption in my lifestyle. In fact, our family of four reached a point where, between recycling and composting, we generated less than half a trashcan of garbage a week.

Well, that's enough of my life history - no MySpace going on here. It actually leads me to the prime point of the article. Conservation measures can make energy savings and positive environmental impact attainable for us all. These measures can be grand, involving tearing your walls out to the studs and re-insulating or they can be modest, setting the thermostat a degree or two cooler or warmer. The real key is to do it and integrate it into your normal lifestyle.

Let's go back to the incandescent/compact fluorescent bulb example. Changing them out sounds like the ultimate in simplicity, right? Well hold on, CFs aren't for everyone. They can be very unattractive when used in fancy crystal chandeliers and their light color is unappealing to some. Both these issues are being addressed based on market demands but some States are getting ready to introduce a very complex solution -

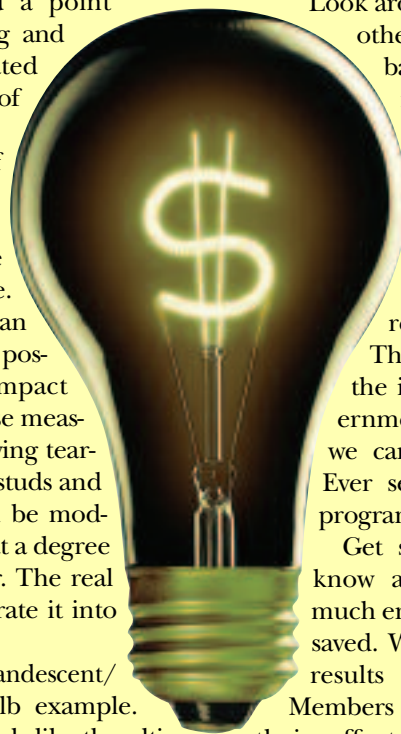
outlawing incandescent bulbs. States that are outlawing the sale of these bulbs are simply creating a black market opportunity. Can't you see tractor trailer loads of illicit light bulbs crawling down back roads, headlights dimmed to avoid detection, heading for eager consumers who want that warm yellow light and cheaper cost? Why not let people make the choice and find that attainable level that suits their lifestyle and means?

So, you change a few lamps, save a few bucks and capture your own greenest dollar. There's a link to a handy calculator on our web site where you can tabulate your benefit: www.sussexrec.com/brochures/brochures.html. But that is just the start.

Look around your house and find other ways to pad that green bank account. When in the market for new appliances or electronics, look for the EnergyStar label. We will do our part with regular articles and information about where to look for savings ideas and lots of resources on our web site.

The rest is up to you. I prefer the individual's action to government mandates and think we can do it better ourselves. Ever see a simple government program? I didn't think so.

Get started today and let us know at info@sussexrec.com how much energy you have shaved and saved. We'll track it and post the results online. I challenge the Members of Sussex REC to pool their efforts and save a megawatt (1,000,000 watts). For example, if you change a 100 watt incandescent bulb for a 14 watt CF you just saved 86 watts! That may not sound like much but if each member in each of the 900 U.S. cooperatives match that effort, we save the energy of at least 2 power plants. Not bad for individual action, eh?



70th Annual Meeting

On June 4th, your cooperative held its 70th annual meeting at High Point Regional High School. More than 600 people enjoyed refreshments and music provided by the Sussex County Youth Orchestra Ensemble (www.scyo.org) before adjourning to the auditorium for the meeting itself. Those members with children were able to leave them with the staff of Peters Valley Craft Center (www.petersvalley.org) for a terrific art program that involved making paper, working in innovative ways with water-



colors and other media. The meeting itself involved the election of three Board Members, the presentation of the financial results from 2006 and an outstanding speech by Jim Bausell, the Chief Operating Officer of Touchstone Energy. The event was capped off with the drawing of prizes.

BE A HERO

SAVE A LIFE

GIVE BLOOD

AUGUST 28, 2007

2:00-7:00 PM

SUSSEX REC OFFICES

Energy Savings

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tion" setting for this purpose. Leave a reminder to turn it back up upon returning home. **Note:** For owners of a Marathon water heater this step is not necessary, as the Marathon will behave quite nicely at its normal setting while you are away due to its excellent insulation.

- * Waterbed owners should unplug the heater, or at least lower the temperature 10 degrees.
- * Pool owners should shorten the operating time for the pool filter and automatic cleaning sweep (if applicable). A pool cover can save energy too.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, up to 70 percent of pool heat loss is by evaporation.

Refrigerator

Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. If going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.

For more information on how to use your energy more efficiently this summer, and all year round, check out our website at <http://www.sussexrec.com/brochures/brochures.html>.

SUMMER HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Back by popular demand, we are including a couple of months' worth so those of you who receive your Currents later in the month don't miss out on all the great "holidays" cooked up for our shopping pleasure by American businesses and organizations.



July

- Jul 1-31 National Bikini Month
- Jul 1-31 National Blueberries Month
- Jul 1-31 National Grilling Month
- Jul 1-31 National Hot Dog Month
- Jul 1-31 National Horseradish Month
- Jul 2 Halfway Point of 2007
- Jul 3 Red, White & Boom, Columbus OH
- Jul 3- Aug 15 Air Conditioning Appreciation Days
- Jul 4 Independence Day
- Jul 15 National Ice Cream Day
- Jul 15-21 National Independent Retailers Week
- Jul 22 Parents Day
- Jul 23 Gorgeous Grandma Day
- Jul 24 National Drive-Thru Day

August

- Aug 1 Girlfriend's Day
- Aug 4 National Mustard Day
- Aug 5 Sisters' Day
- Aug 6 National Fresh Breath Day
- Aug 8 National Underwear Day
- Aug 15 Best Friend's Day
- Aug 15 National Relaxation Day
- Aug 17 National Men's Grooming Day
- Aug 29 More Herbs, Less Salt Day

Landscaping...

Continued from page 1

solution doesn't it? While we are on the topic of landscaping, let me put on my utility maintenance hat for a moment. Whenever you plant a tree, be sure to plant it well away from our lines, both buried and overhead. When planted too close to our lines, trees can grow into the wires creating outages and other safety hazards or their roots can grow into our buried lines where they can cause outages as well. As a rule of thumb, plant your trees and shrubs at least 15 - 20' on either side of our lines. This 30 - 40' wide buffer will protect your service

continuity and increase the overall reliability and safety of our system.

Here are some additional links about landscaping for energy conservation (obtained through a Google search on this phrase: *energy conservation landscaping*):

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/homelandscapes/energy/energy.html>

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/Garden/07225.html>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EH144>

http://www.city.markham.on.ca/markham/resources/ens_landscaping.pdf

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/> The Home Page for Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Address/Telephone Change?

Has your mailing address or telephone changed recently? If so, please make sure you provide us with the new information. In the event of an outage, we rely on your phone number to bring up your account information quickly and accurately.

You can contact us by:

E-mail: customerservice@sussexrec.com

Phone: 973-875-5101

Indicate the change on your bill stub.

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Make the wise choice

When its time to buy a new water heater, there are a number of choices you can make. You can purchase a heater warranted for six or eight years, one that will be cheap to buy, but expensive to operate. Or you can invest in a Marathon and save money in operating costs...for a lifetime. Marathon - super efficient and warranted not to leak for as long as you own your home.



- **Seamless Polybutylene Tank** will never rust, corrode or leak.
- **Environfoam® Insulation** completely surrounds the tank. Superior efficiency with no Ozone-depleting chemicals.
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Contact us today for model availability, pricing and complete information. 973-875-5101 x117 or go to our website:

<http://www.sussexrec.com/brochures/Marathon.html>

Marathon *Simply the wisest choice*
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