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WA-18

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Follow the tips below to get the least cost and greatest comfort this summer.

- Make sure your central air-conditioning system or window unit is properly sized for the space it is meant to cool. Improperly sized units use more energy than needed.
- Remember, window air-conditioning units generally are not designed to cool more than one room.
- Clean or replace window unit or central air-conditioning system filters monthly. Dirty filters cause air conditioners to work harder and use more energy.
- If you have a central air-conditioning system, do not close off unused rooms or close air registers. The system will be less efficient, and will cost more to operate.
- Make sure outside air conditioning units or heat pumps are not blocked by shrubbery, leaves or other objects.
- Set the thermostat on the highest comfortable setting. Raising the temperature just 2 degrees can reduce cooling costs as much as 5 percent. It is recommended to set your thermostat between 72 and 77 F.

Heat Transfer and Airflow

- Check weather stripping around doors and caulking around windows. Properly sealed doors and windows help prevent warm outside air from entering the home.
- Close blinds, shades or drapes during the hottest part of the day to block the sun's heat.
- Make sure the attic is properly ventilated to eliminate excess summer heat.

Household Tips

- Place heat-producing appliances such as lamps and televisions away from the air conditioning thermostat to prevent inaccurate temperature readings.
- For homes without air conditioning, use fans to draw cooler air inside during the night and to circulate air throughout your home during the day. Use only when the home is occupied. Fan blades should rotate counter-clockwise in summer months.
- Save jobs that produce moisture—such as mopping and washing dishes or clothes—for early morning or nighttime hours. The humidity from these activities can make homes uncomfortable. On hot days, cook outdoors, use a microwave or prepare cold meals to avoid excess heat in the kitchen.
- Try not to use a dehumidifier when your air conditioning is on. Dehumidifiers increase the cooling load and forces the air conditioning to work harder.
- If planting permanent shade trees, place them to the east and west sides of the home. South-facing walls benefit from the sun the most in the winter through passive solar energy. Therefore, planting trees to the south could decrease that warming effect.

To learn more about home cooling and energy saving rebates, contact Anita, Klickitat PUD's energy services specialist, at (509) 773-7622.