



Emergency Electricity Conservation Tips for Summer

The summer heat wave has driven up energy demand, taxing the grid. MEAG Power, which provides the wholesale power to our community, has alerted us that the electrical grid has reached a critical level. To prevent possible emergency power outages, we are asking our customers to please conserve energy to the extent possible.

If the grid is further taxed and reaches an emergency level, it may be necessary to institute temporary outages to protect the grid from more extensive damage. This could mean lengthier repairs and longer, more widespread power outages.

We are grateful to you for your patience and understanding during this uniquely difficult situation. Conserving energy use during this critical period can help keep the lights on for others.

ELECTRICITY CONSERVATION TIPS from the U.S. Department of Energy

Use Your Windows to Keep Out Heat

- Install window coverings to prevent heat gain through your windows during the day.
 - Find out about [window treatments and coverings](#) that can improve energy efficiency.

Operate Your Thermostat Efficiently

- Set your thermostat at a temperature you find comfortable and that provides humidity control, if needed. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.
- Keep your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lower the thermostat setting when you return home and need cooling. A [programmable thermostat](#) allows you to do this automatically and without sacrificing comfort.
- Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you first turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.



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ELECTRICITY CONSERVATION TIPS, continued

Use Fans and Ventilation Strategies to Cool Your Home

- Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room. Remember that fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect.
- When you shower or take a bath, use the bathroom fan to remove heat and humidity from your home. Your laundry room might also benefit from spot ventilation. Make sure bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside (not just to the attic).
 - Find ENERGY STAR [ventilating fans](#).

Keep Your Cooling System Running Efficiently

- For maximum energy affordability, schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment.
 - Learn about operating and maintaining your [air conditioner](#), [evaporative cooler](#), or [heat pump](#).
- Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
 - Learn additional tips for operating a [room air conditioner](#) efficiently.
- Vacuum your air intake vents regularly to remove any dust buildup. Ensure that furniture and other objects are not blocking the airflow through your registers.

Consider a Range of Appliances and Lighting Options

- Consider lighting options that operate at cooler temperatures.
 - Learn more about your options for efficient [lighting](#).
 - Find out [when to turn off your lights](#).
- If convenient, take advantage of daylight instead of artificial lighting, but avoid direct sunlight.
 - Learn more about strategies for efficient [daylighting](#).
- Wash full loads of dishes and clothes for better efficiency.
 - Learn more about efficient [dishwashing](#) and [laundry](#).



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ELECTRICITY CONSERVATION TIPS, continued

Keep Hot Air from Leaking Into Your Home

- Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.
 - Learn more about [air sealing new and existing homes](#).
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.
 - Find how to [select and apply the appropriate caulk](#).
 - Learn how to [select and apply weatherstripping](#).
 - Find out other ways to [improve the energy efficiency](#) of your windows.

Lower Your Water Heating Costs

Water heating accounts for about 18% of the energy consumed in your home.

- The [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) recommends [setting your water heater at no more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit](#) to prevent scalding. The lower setting will also conserve energy and save money.
 - Find other strategies for [energy-efficient water heating](#).