

Teaching Youngsters the Important Lesson of Energy Efficiency

Electronic and mobile devices, TVs, computers and gaming stations have become ubiquitous fixtures in our homes, particularly those with children. Consumer electronics coupled with the proliferation of smart home appliances, technology and electric vehicles have slowly but steadily changed our homes and lifestyles.

This ever-connected world is the modern environment in which children are growing up. And with lifestyles increasingly reliant on technology and in turn, energy consumption, teaching youngsters to save energy is an important life lesson.

The Why

But before parents can teach their children how to save energy, they must first answer the question, “what’s in it for me?” As most parents can attest, convincing kids to care about energy efficiency is a hard sell. Parents need to explain why it’s important to save energy and how it benefits the child – otherwise they will not understand the need to change their habits and will be less motivated to do so. In the simplest terms, less money spent on an electric bill can mean more money used for fun activities (that’s something children can relate to!).

Less tangible, but just as important, using less energy means running your home more efficiently, conserving natural resources and helping the environment.

Learning by Doing

Because “saving energy” is an abstract concept for children, be specific about energy efficiency actions and set an example. We know that children learn by observing what their parents do. Even if they don’t say anything, children are processing your actions. When you turn off the lights when leaving a room or unplug the phone charger once the device is fully



charged, they will notice.

Learning about energy efficiency doesn’t have to be a boring lecture. Make it fun for greater impact.

For younger kids, turn energy efficiency into a “treasure hunt” game to locate all the things in your home that use electricity. Depending on the age of the children, challenge them to count and group the items into categories: electronics, appliances, lights, etc. If age appropriate, have them create a list. Ask which gadgets and appliances could be turned off or unplugged to save power every day.

For older children, show them how to program the smart thermostat and appliances. Shop with them for LED lights and discuss ENERGY STAR-rated appliances. Show them the electric bill so they can see the costs, energy use and how their actions impact the bill.

Kids of all ages can learn a few simple energy-saving habits that can last a lifetime:

- Turn off lights, devices, computers and video consoles when not in use.
- Open blinds and curtains during winter days to let warm sunlight in and close them during summer days to keep your home cooler.
- If your children are old enough to run the dishwasher or wash their own clothes, teach them to run these appliances only with a full load and during off-peak energy hours.

Rewards

Offer rewards for agreed upon milestones. Rewards provide positive reinforcement on energy-saving actions. The idea is to create a habit of being energy efficient. And for parents, this could mean less nagging about turning off the lights!

Teaching your children about saving energy is not only a creative way to spend time with them; it helps your home to be more energy efficient and can instill good habits that will benefit your child long into adulthood.

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In Case of Trouble

1. Check for blown fuse or tripped circuit breakers.
2. Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and if they have reported it.
3. If not, call the office or download the Smarthub app to report the trouble.

	<u>Read</u>	<u>Billing date</u>	
Cycle 1	26th-31st	5th	1-1/2% penalty
Cycle 2	6th-11th	15th	applied 20 days
Cycle 3	16th-21st	25th	after billing date

Operating Statistics for October

	2017	2018
Operating Revenues	\$4,307,953	\$4,397,942
Wholesale Cost of Power	\$3,113,733	\$3,130,808
Percentage WPC is of Revenue	72.28	71.20
Consumers per Mile of Line	4.73	4.74
Revenue per Mile of Line	\$820.41	\$838.66
KW Peak Demand - This month	123,471	130,802
Billing kW demand	102,701	103,927
KW Peak Demand - YTD	161,211	182,438
KWh Purchased - This month	54,385,127	57,640,817
Taxes Paid	\$92,720	\$93,264
Interest on Long Term Debt	\$198,720	\$172,490
System Load Factor	53.5	59.2

New Services Staked in November

During the month of November, 32 new services were staked. The total new services staked in 2018 is 325. This compares to 327 for the same period in 2017.

Right-Size Your Home's Heating, A/C Unit

When it comes to heating and cooling your home, you can get too much of a good thing.

In fact, if you live in an older home and haven't replaced your heating or air conditioning systems, there's a good chance they're both way too big.

Used to be that homes were so energy inefficient that much of the heated or cooled air would leak right out of the house through windows and through tiny holes and cracks around windows, doors and the roof.

New homes are built so "tight" that's not such a big problem anymore. And even if you live in an older house, chances are you or a prior owner has replaced the single-pane windows with energy-efficient double-pane models; added insulation to the attic; and caulked around the windows and doors to prevent heat loss and gain.

So the A/C or heating system that was installed to compensate for that loss could be up to four times bigger than what you need now.

That's a problem because a system that's too big will cycle on too often, which can leave too much humidity in the air and make your house too hot, too cold or too humid.

When you're ready to replace your oversized, out-of-date systems, choose energy-efficient models. And insist that your service technician correctly "size" the system for your lifestyle and the efficiency of the house – not on its age or size.



OPERATION ROUND-UP

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BEGINNING BALANCE 10/31/18	\$239,338.08
DEPOSITS	8,496.56
INTEREST INCOME	37.21
CHECKS ISSUED	-14,052.56
APPROVED, NOT YET PAID	-16,161.06
BALANCE 11/30/18	\$217,658.23

CVEC Foundation administers and disburses funds collected through CVEC's Operation Round-Up Program.

Invest a Little; Save a Lot

Saving energy at home can be simple and free: Turn off the lights and TV when you're not using them; lower the thermostat at night. But for a bigger impact on your electric bill, make a little bit more of an effort and invest a few bucks in energy-saving equipment.

Here's what to buy:

LEDs. Next time a light bulb burns out, replace it with an LED. They last for years and use their energy to produce light, not heat. LED bulbs can screw right into the lamps and fixtures you have. But when it's time to replace those, consider buying LED fixtures for even greater savings.

Good-quality power strips. Plug your electronic equipment into them. Before you go to bed at night, unplug those strips. If energy-intensive appliances like computers, printers and video game consoles are left plugged in after you turn them off, they still use energy—constantly. The only way to stop wasting that energy is to unplug.

New windows. If your old ones are single-pane versions, you might as well leave them open all winter. They're no match for the cold air, which can seep through them. And they don't do a good job of keeping your heated air inside. If that's too much for now, at least plug the leaks around your windows and doors with weather stripping or caulk.

Window shades. Uncovered windows are great for views, but terrible for your energy bill. Your heating bill will be lower in the winter and your air conditioning costs will drop in the summer if you use blinds, curtains or awnings on windows. Uncover them on sunny winter days to let the natural warmth come into your home, but close them up after dark when the temperature dips.

Programmable thermostat. Everyone forgets to lower the heat once in a while. A programmable thermostat will do that for you. Program yours to lower at bedtime, and then automatically warm the house up just before everyone wakes up. It can lower the heat again once everyone leaves for school and work in the morning and crank it back up before the family gets home in the afternoon.

The services of qualified technicians. Keeping your heating and cooling system clean and well-maintained will help it run smoother and more efficiently. Likewise, keeping vents clear—including the one for your clothes dryer—will keep your family safer and your appliances running as they should.



Save Money on Water Heating

Besides heating and cooling your home, heating your water uses more energy than anything else in the house.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that the typical family spends up to 18 percent of its utility dollars on water heating.

Good news: It's simple to lower that cost. Here are eight tips:

1. Get rid of your old shower heads and bathroom faucets: They pump out way more water than you need to comfortably get clean. In their place, install low-flow faucets and aerating shower heads. The less water you use, the less you have to pay to heat it.

2. If you notice a leaky faucet, repair it immediately. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates a faucet that drips 20 times per minute will waste a full gallon of water every day. If that happens to be hot water, you are washing money down the drain with every drip.

3. Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. The Department of Energy says that's a safe and sanitary temperature, and it will keep you comfortable at bath time, too.

4. Insulate your electric hot water tank – but don't cover the thermostat. If your tank is gas or oil-fueled, don't cover the top or bottom of the heater or its burner compartment. You might need to ask a plumber for help.

5. Wrap the hot and cold water pipes that connect to the water heater – for about six feet out.

6. Drain about a quart of water from the tank every three months to remove sediment. Built-up gunk in the water heater can make it inefficient because it has to work 1406352400 harder to transfer to heat to the water.

7. If you're in the market for a new water heater, choose a high-efficiency model with the Energy Star label. High-efficiency water heaters use 10 percent to 50 percent less energy than traditional models.

8. Water heaters last for up to 15 years, but new models are so much more energy efficient than older ones that it's worth it to replace yours if you've had it for seven or more years.

AUTOMOBILES & BIKES

1990 Dodge 150 pickup, new brakes, runs good, 1997 Dodge Avenger runs good, both 'as is', \$1,800 each, can be seen at 42911 Garretslake Rd., Shawnee, 405-481-9527.

1994 Chevrolet Lumina APV passenger van, owned for over 20 years, good condition, 580-925-3978.

FARM & RANCH

Small square bales of good clean prairie hay, \$4/bale, 405-598-5860.

Three-point tractor equipment, 405-273-7874.

MISCELLANEOUS

House full of new and antique big and small stuff, some or all; WANTED - screen/glass doors for fireplace, 37.5" wide x 22" tall, 918-968-5524.

Two wood propellers, 68", 2-blade rotary 503 hub, 3-blade 582 hub, \$100 each, 405-279-2616.

Freezer, refrigerator, washer, dryer, dishwasher, cookstove, A.C., propane upright tank (about 100 lb.) 405-273-7874.

Four new ST 225/75 R 15" Load Range E 10-ply tires mounted on white modular 6-hole wheels, \$300; two 14.9x28 rear tractor tires, well used, two 7.50x16 3-rib front tires, well used, \$100 for all, 405-820-0582.

Front/back/interior/exterior/wood/glass doors/sliding barn doors available many different sizes, styles, and materials, available 8-ft. and standard size in height, located in Shawnee, 405-765-2923.

Split pecan firewood, \$75/rick, split Oak firewood, \$65/rick, 405-279-2008.

Vintage A.C. Cheney player piano, fun to play, comes with 190 new and current piano rolls, \$2,500 OBO, 405-997-5462.

Boxes of paper back books by James Patterson, Lee Childs (Jack Reacher), David Baldacci, \$4/each, negotiate on multiples or all, 405-219-2573.

Portable 12-inch Delta planer, \$150; 4kW Coleman generator, \$100; 3-point hitch dirt scoop, \$100; antique baby weighing scales with wicker basket, \$100, 659-5047.

Three lots in Prague Cemetery, lot 276, block 6, 405-567-5130.

Commercial Cleaning Services, LLC, all types of cleaning, in business since 2003, license & bonded, carpets, ceramic, tile, wood, free quotes, references available, business and residential, 405-788-6545.



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Blank lines for submitting classified ads.

All information below must be completed.

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Account # _____
Phone # _____



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energy.gov

