

Energynews

www.delmarva.com you can use | mar 2006



Delmarva Power employee Jim Cinelli speaks to a group on how they can make their homes more energy efficient.

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: I read that natural gas prices are partly to blame for the projected increases in electricity rates. What does natural gas have to do with my electric rate?

A: Because natural gas is viewed as the cleanest and safest burning fuel it has become the fuel of choice for many power plants, particularly given today's environmental regulations. In fact, more than 90 percent of the electric generation capacity added since the mid 1990s is gas-based.

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Investing Wisely in Saving Energy

With the rising cost of energy on consumers' minds these days, it seems so is energy efficiency, particularly among those shopping for home improvements.

Area retailers are reporting record sales for items aimed at saving on the monthly energy bill. They say more people today are leaving stores with compact fluorescent light bulbs, storm windows, window insulation kits and the like – all of which promise to save the consumer money while reducing their energy consumption.

If you want to save on energy in your home, here are some options, ranging in cost:

No Cost

- Save on your monthly energy bill by turning your thermostat down during the winter, 68 degrees or less, and turning it up during the summer, 72 degrees or more.
- On sunny days, keep drapes, shades and blinds open during the day to help warm the house and closed at night to reduce heat loss.
- Use cold water whenever possible.
- Turn off lights, televisions, computers in non-occupied rooms, unplug chargers and use outdoor lights only when needed.

Minimal Cost

- Purchase and install a programmable thermostat and set the

temperature to an energy-efficient mode during both the winter and summer.

- Replace traditional light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, which last longer and use less energy.
- Repair air leaks throughout the house by caulking between cracks around windows and doors. Also, use weather stripping to seal doors.

More Costly

- Consider replacing your old furnace or boiler with one that uses less energy. The higher the efficiency rating (90% or higher), the less energy it will use.
- If the water heater is 10 years or older consider replacing it with one that has an energy factor of .62 or higher for gas-fired water heaters, or .87 for electric-fired water heaters.
- Install storm doors and windows where possible. If replacing windows, consider purchasing double or triple pane windows.

For more energy-savings ideas, go to www.delmarva.com and click "Save \$" on the home page. You can also call our Customer Care Center at (800) 375-7117 and request the "85 Ways to Save Energy & Money" brochure in either English or Spanish.



A PHI Company



Delaware (Area code 302)

Apr 2: *Barbara Santoro Jazz Brunch for Delaware Hospice*; Harry's Savoy Grill, Wilmington; 800-838-9800, www.prufoxroach.com

Apr 28: *The Wilmington Kennel Club Inc. Dog Show*; Lums Pond State Park Campground, Bear; www.wilmingtonkennelclub.org

Apr 28-30: *Reedy Point Players present "Faith County"*; Delaware City, www.ReedyPointPlayers@aol.com

Apr 29: *Ag Day 2006*; UD Townsend Hall, Newark; 302-831-2508, kvanb@udel.edu

Maryland (Area code 410)

Apr: *Worcester County in the Civil War*; Julia A. Purnell Museum, Snow Hill; 410-632-0515, www.purnellmuseum.com

Apr 6: *Hooked Rug Exhibit*; Dunes Manor Hotel, 28St.&Balt. Ave.; 410-289-4110, Ocrug@aol.com

Apr 14-16: *Easter Art and Craft Fair, Kids Fair*; Convention Center, 40St.&Bay; 410-524-7020, 800-OC-OCEAN, www.oceanpromotions.info

Apr 28-30: *36th Annual ward World Championship Wildfowl carving Competition and Art Festival*; Roland E. Powell Conv. Center, Ocean City; 410-742-4988, www.wardmuseum.org

New Jersey (Area code 609, 856)

April: *Appel Farm Evening Concerts*; 800-394-1211, also; **Apr 8:** *Appel Farm Presents Puppet Theatre, Workshop*; Elmer; 800-394-1211, www.appelfarm.org

Apr 23: *Holly City Arts & Crafts Show*; Elk's Lodge #540, Millville; 856-765-0118, www.sjpumpkinshow.com

Apr 28-30: *Salem Co. Historical Society Annual Open House Tour*; 856-935-5004, www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com

Apr 29, 30: *Vintage Dance Weekend; Chocolate Fantasy Buffet*; Cape May; 609-884-5404, www.cape-maymac.org

Virginia (Area code 757)

April 15: *Annual Spring Craft Show*; Chincoteague Center, Chincoteague; 757-336-0614, www.chincoteaguecenter.org

For additional listings click on "In Your Community" at our Web site. In the Atlantic City Electric Region, visit www.atlanticelectric.com, and in the Delmarva Power Region, visit: www.delmarva.com. To include a future event either in ENYCU or online, fax to 302-283-6095, or send an e-mail to Energy.News@pepcoholdings.com.

But Stay Safe around Electricity

Spring is just around the corner. That means we'll all be spending more time outdoors, which offers a greater chance of being near power lines and other dangerous electrical equipment. Here are some important safety tips:

- Never touch or come into contact with a power line.
- Check for overhead lines before using a ladder, building a scaffold, trimming branches or doing other types of overhead work.
- Assume a fallen power line is live. Stay away from it and immediately call Delmarva Power at: (800) 898-8042 in New Castle County (DE) and Cecil and Harford counties (MD); or (800) 898-8045 in Kent and Sussex counties (DE) and along the Eastern Shore of MD and VA.
- Make sure you have at least 10 feet of clearance between the highest point of your boat and any power lines.
- Keep away from electrical equipment.
- Keep clear of substations and transformers and make sure your children know not to play near them.
- Call before digging in your yard. Coming into contact with underground lines or other equipment can result in serious injury or death. Utility services personnel will come to your residence and locate any underground lines and equipment. There is no charge for this service. The numbers to call are:

In Delaware, 1-800-282-8555

In Maryland, 1-800-257-7777

In Virginia, 1-800-552-7001

For more safety tips, visit our web site at www.delmarva.com, and click on the "Safety & Conservation" link.

Need a Speaker?
If you would like to have a company representative talk to your community group or civic association, contact our Speakers Bureau at 800-355-0368 and schedule a speaker at no cost.

DID YOU KNOW?

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Since many of today's power plants are using natural gas to generate electricity, your electric rates will be affected by the rising cost of natural gas. The outlook for relying on natural gas-fired electricity generators is unlikely to be altered due to the vast number of gas units completed over the past five years and the difficulty in siting and constructing coal or nuclear generating units in less than 10 years.

If you have a question on energy use and efficiency that you would like to see appear in this column, please send it to:

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