

Energynews

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States Offer Energy Assistance Programs

While Delmarva Power's electric rates will remain stable this winter, we're concerned about the impact of higher overall energy costs on our customers. The following programs are designed to help customers struggling to cope with higher energy costs:

Energy Assistance in Maryland

Delmarva Power customers can apply for energy assistance through the Office of Home Energy Programs, which helps income-eligible households pay their heating bills, minimize heating crises, and make energy costs more affordable.

Below are energy assistance programs available to income-eligible Delmarva Power customers in Maryland:

■ **Project Heat Up** - This new and temporary program will provide relief to working families during the winter of 2006. It benefits families whose incomes are not low enough to meet the guidelines for other Maryland energy assistance programs. The enrollment period is from January 15, 2006 through March 31, 2006. Payments are made directly to your utility or heating fuel company.

■ **Maryland Energy Assistance Program** - This program provides assistance with home heating bills.

■ **Electric Universal Service Program** - This is a state program that assists income-eligible electric customers with their electric bills. Eligible electric customers may receive help in three ways:

- To pay current electric bills;
- To pay past due electric bills; and,
- Help with energy efficiency measures to reduce future electric bills.

■ **Weatherization Assistance Program** - This program provides home weatherization services such as weather stripping, caulking, plastic window covering, etc. to help make your home or apartment more fuel efficient at no cost to eligible families.

■ **Utility Service Protection Program** - This program protects low-income families from utility cut-offs and allows eligible households to enter into a year-round, flat monthly payment program with Delmarva Power.

Delmarva Power customers can apply for the energy assistance programs listed above with a single application. For information on applying, call 1-800-352-1446.

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Test Your Energy-Savings IQ

- 1.** Compact fluorescent bulbs use less energy than incandescent bulbs and last longer.
a) True b) False
- 2.** You can save ____% on your heating costs for every degree you reduce the temperature below 70 degrees during the heating season.
a) 1% b) 3% c) 5%
- 3.** Adding weather stripping and caulk can save you ____% or more in annual energy costs?
a) 3% b) 5% c) 10%
- 4.** If you have a forced-air heating system, how often should you clean or replace the filter?
a) every two weeks b) monthly
c) every other month
d) every six months
- 5.** In the winter, _____ is second to space heating in energy consumption.
a) lighting b) cooking
c) water heating

Answers

- 1) a 2) b 3) c 4) b 5) c



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Energy Assistance in Virginia (continued from front)

Delmarva Power's Virginia customers can apply for help with their energy bills through the state's Energy Assistance Program, which assists low-income households with their energy bills.

Virginia's Energy Assistance Program is comprised of four components for eligible households:

- Fuel Assistance
- Cooling Assistance
- Crisis Assistance
- Weatherization Assistance

To apply for energy assistance in Virginia, Delmarva Power customers should call their county's Department of Social Services office.

Those numbers are: 757-787-1530, Accomack County; and 757-678-5153, Northampton County.

Delaware (Area code 302)

Feb 4: 25th Annual Stamp Day; The Stamp Center/Dutch Country Auctions, 4115 Concord Pike, Wilm.; 302-478-8740

Feb 17-19: The Lewes Historical Society Fine Art Show and Sale; Society Museums, Lewes; 302-645-7670, www.historiclewes.org

Feb 25: 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Gala; PAL, 3707 N. Market St., Wilm.; 764-6170

Feb 25: Rehoboth Beach Merchant's Attic I and General Public Garage Sale; Rehoboth Beach Convention Center; 800-441-1329 x12 or 302-227-2233, www.beach-fun.com

Maryland (Area code 410)

Feb 12: Ward Museum 30th Anniversary Volunteer Art Exhibit; Salisbury University, LaMay Gallery

Feb 12: Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra Mid-Season Concert; Community Church at Ocean Pines; 888-846-8600, www.midatlanticsymphony.org

Feb 17-19 Seaside Boat Show; Convention Center, 40th & Bay; 410-632-3676

Feb 23: Program on Gloria Richardson; Dorchester Public Library; 410-228-7331

New Jersey (Area code 609, 856)

Feb 3: Boheme Opera New Jersey; Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton; (609) 581-7200

Feb 11: Inspiring Vocals- The Holmes Brothers; Appel Farm, Elmer; www.appelfarm.org 609-898-8848

Feb 14: Romantic Full Moon Night Hike; Rancocas Nature Center, Mount Holly; 609-261-2495

Feb 17: Ladysmith Black Mambazo; McCarter Theater, Princeton; 609-258-2787

Feb 25: Romona Quimby; Appel Farm, Elmer; 800-394-1211, www.appelfarm.org

Feb 26: Kid's Expo; Cape May Convention Hall; 609-898-8848

Virginia (Area code 757)

Feb 18: Mardi Gras - A Masked Affair; Chincoteague Center; 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.atlanticcityelectric.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@pepco-holdings.com.

Take Control of Your Heating Costs

This winter, many people will pay more to heat their homes as the prices of heating oil, propane and natural gas have gone up. Here are a few steps you can take to reduce your energy consumption and save on your heating bill:

- Lower the temperature setting on your thermostat. You save 3 percent on your heating bill for every degree you lower the setting below 70 degrees.
- Change your furnace filters on a monthly basis. A clogged filter can use up to five percent more energy.
- Set your refrigerator thermostat between 38 and 40 degrees and your freezer at five degrees. Also, clean the coils on a regular basis to reduce the amount of energy those appliances use.
- Use the microwave when possible rather than the oven. The microwave uses less energy.
- Use cold water when practical rather than hot to operate your food disposal or to perform other tasks in and around your home.

For more tips, visit our Web site at www.delmarva.com and click on the Read Conservation Tips link. We also have a new brochure with energy savings ideas and information on where to get help paying energy bills. It's called "85 Ways To Save Money & Energy". To get your copy log on to www.delmarva.com or call 800-375-7117.

Web News

Delmarva Power's Web site, www.delmarva.com, has a fresh new look. We have redesigned the site to improve navigation and make it easier for you to find the information you need, such as current power outage information, options for paying your electric bill, tips on ways to conserve energy and save money, as well as a variety of other useful information.

We held focus groups with customers to get their thoughts on making the site more convenient and user friendly and the new design reflects that input. So log on to www.delmarva.com and check it out.

We welcome additional ideas for improving the site. Go to the home page, click on the "comments and inquiries" link and forward your suggestions.

