



May 2011
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@ YOUR

Service



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Air Conditioning Energy Saving Tips



Reducing Summer Power Bills Without Spending Money

A key to reducing air conditioning

costs during hot summer days is to limit the amount of heat generated within the home or apartment during the afternoon, when temperatures are at their highest.

- Keep lights off when rooms are not in use. Lights generate heat that makes your air conditioner run more.
- Try to wash and dry clothes, iron and cook in the morning or later in the evening. Use microwave ovens, which produce much less heat than stoves, for cooking.
- Use awnings, curtains, or blinds to keep out direct sunlight. This will keep your house cooler.
- Eliminate activities in the afternoon that require a great deal of in and out through the doors of your home. This allows cool air to escape and hot air to enter the home.

More Efficient Air Conditioning:

One of the most inexpensive and effective ways to reduce your air conditioning costs is to adjust your thermostat setting. The savings can be significant when you set your thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. For each degree you raise your thermostat setting, you reduce seasonal cooling costs by 6 to 8 percent.

- Setting the temperature a little higher of around 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit, will you save 6 to 8 percent of your cooling costs for each degree above 78, and most people will be comfortable.



- Use a ceiling fan or portable fan to supplement your air conditioning. A fan can make you feel three to four degrees cooler (and only costs a half-cent per hour to operate) so you can set your thermostat a few degrees higher and save on cooling costs. Use in occupied rooms since fans cool people, not rooms.
- Turn off the air conditioning or set the thermostat up a few degrees when you leave home.
- Be sure your air conditioner is not blocked. A free flowing air conditioner operates most efficiently. Be sure the return air grill inside your house is not blocked by furniture or other items. Filters should be checked monthly.
- When air conditioning is on, keep doors and windows closed. Turn off kitchen or bathroom exhaust fans when your air conditioning is operating.
- Caulk and weather-strip leaky windows and doors.
- Shade your home from direct sunlight. Use shades, drapes, trees and shrubs to block the hot sun from heating up your home.
- If you suspect your air conditioning system is not cooling properly, have it checked promptly. A unit that is having operational problems can cause extremely high bills.
- If your air conditioning equipment is older and less efficient, compensate by being extra careful about temperature settings, hours of operation and filter condition.

Biggest Money Saving Improvements

Four tips to provide the greatest energy savings:

- Replacing an old air conditioner with a high efficiency unit (new air conditioners use up to 40% less electricity than older models)
- Sealing leaks in ductwork in your attic (the average home loses 15%-25% of cooling and heating through leaking ducts)
- Adding attic insulation to R-30 (the average 15-year old home has between R-11 and R-15)
- Installing solar screens on windows hit by direct sunlight (solar screens reflect back 60%-70% of sunlight/heat before it can enter the house)



B **EFORE DIGGING:** Call Gopher State One at 1-800-252-1166 for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least **48 hours** before digging begins.

Business & Repair Office Hours
7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
Business: 829-8726
Repair: 829-2193
Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year:
218-829-2193
EMAIL@BPU.ORG WWW.BPU.ORG

N **OTICE:** All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed, and work inspected by our inspector. Please call **825-3210** or **829-2193** for more information.

DROP BOXES

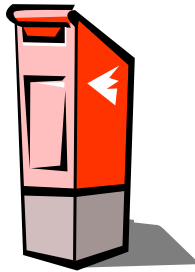
Brainerd Public Utilities has three payment drop boxes for your convenience.

These payments are picked up daily at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

There is no need to place a stamp on your payment when placed in these drop boxes.

The drop boxes are located at:

1. 8027 Highland Scenic Road (Our Business Office).
2. The Corner of 7th and Laurel Street.
3. Outside the Senior Citizen Center at 803 Kingwood Street.
4. East Brainerd Mall in front of the Dollar Tree Store.



Watt's Weather

Total Precipitation
April 2011 **2.21"**
April 2010 **1.09"**

Average Temperatures
April 2011 **Hi 51 Lo 30**
April 2010 **Hi 64 Lo 39**

We are pleased to offer you the **Direct Payment Plan** for utility payments. With this plan your utility bill payment can be made automatically from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

Direct Payment

The Direct Payment Plan will help you in several ways:

1. Saves time – fewer checks to write.
2. No late payments. Your payment is always on time, even if you're on vacation or out of town, helping to maintain good credit.
3. Saves postage.
4. Easy to sign up for, easy to cancel.
5. No late payment charges.

Here's how the Direct Payment Plan works:

1. You will continue to receive your monthly bill each month, allowing you to review the charges.
2. Your payment will be automatically deducted on the due date of your bill.
3. Payments can be made from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

To take advantage of this service, complete the bottom of this form and return it to Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize Brainerd Public Utilities and the financial institution named below to make automatic payments from the account I have specified on this authorization form. I understand that this authority is to remain in effect until cancelled in writing by myself, Brainerd Public Utilities, or the financial institution designated. If utilizing direct payment from a checking account I have attached a voided check showing my account number and routing transit/ABA number.

Brainerd Public Utility Account number as it appears on my utility bill _____

Customer's Name _____ Phone # _____

Customer's Address _____

Account type: Checking[] Savings[] Visa[] Master Card[]

Bank Account # _____ Routing Transit/ABA # _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration date: _____ Security code: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Contact Kara at Brainerd Public Utilities with any questions: PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401, or 218-825-3201.
WRITTEN 30 DAY NOTICE NEEDED TO BE TAKEN OFF BANK DRAFT PAYMENT