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## HEATING

Heating your home accounts for more than 30% of an average home's energy bill—the single biggest energy expense in your home

Most homes use a furnace or a boiler to power their heating system. These systems are regulated by a thermostat, which tells the system how much energy to use and controls the temperature of your home.

One suggestion is to set your thermostat at 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer to save energy.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

### TURN DOWN THE THERMOSTAT FIVE DEGREES

Why? Turning it down one degree saves about 2% on your heating bill. Turning it down five degrees saves about 10%. Install a programmable thermostat and it will do the work for you.

### HAVE A PROFESSIONAL INSPECT AND TUNE UP YOUR FURNACE

#### CHECK FILTERS

Why? Forced air furnaces and heat pumps have filters that need to be cleaned or replaced monthly.

### CHECK AIR VENTS, RADIATORS AND REGISTERS

Why? If they are blocked by furniture or drapes, heat won't get into the rest of your home.

### CLEAN THE AREA AROUND YOUR FURNACE

Why? It decreases the chance of fire and improves airflow.

### WEAR A SWEATER INSTEAD OF TURNING UP THE HEAT

Why? Turning your thermostat up decreases your savings.

### NEVER USE THE STOVE TO HEAT YOUR HOUSE

Why? It's very dangerous! Stoves are not designed to heat large areas—doing so lets toxic chemicals into your home and is a fire hazard.

#### BE SAFE

Why? Elderly people and people with medical conditions can have greater heating needs—and should adjust their thermostat to meet them.

## SEASONAL

Heating AND cooling accounts for more than 50% of an average energy bill—according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Heating and cooling needs vary by season, but the same tactics apply. A tightly sealed home keeps the air you heat or cool inside and the outdoor air outside.

If you plan to live at your home a long time, think about planting trees that lose their leaves on the west and south side of your home. In the summer they will shade your home from the sun. In the winter they will lose their leaves and let the winter sun heat your home.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

### CHOOSE ENERGY-EFFICIENT SYSTEMS

The easiest way to find an efficient heating or cooling system is by looking for the Energy Star Label.

### KEEP DRAPES OPEN IN THE DAY

Why? It lets sunlight heat your home. Close them at night to keep the chill out.

### REPAIR WINDOWS

Why? Cracks in windows let cold air into your home, driving up your energy bills. Install weather stripping if your window is loose.

### INSTALL STORM WINDOWS

Why? They pay for themselves by keeping out cold air and preventing moisture from collecting on the windows.

### USE TIMERS INSTEAD OF LEAVING LIGHTS ON

Why? If you don't like coming home to a dark house in the short days of winter, save energy by using timers, motions detectors, and daylight sensors.

### BUY SMOKE DETECTORS

Why? You should have one on every level of your house and one outside each sleeping area. Replace batteries twice each year.

### CAULK CRACKS AND GAPS LESS THAN 1/4 INCH WIDE.

Why? Caulk is flexible and a good way to seal air leaks. Apply it when the outdoor temperature is above 45 degrees and not very humid, or the caulk may not dry properly.



## Online Bank Pay

Several BPU customers pay their utility bills each month through online banking.

Please remember to have the correct account number listed on the check, so your payment is posted correctly.

Each time a customer moves, their BPU account also changes.

**NOTICE:** 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.

### 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

**BEFORE 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.



# HeatShare

Some of your neighbors will be cold this winter



### Join your neighbors who care by giving to HeatShare.

HeatShare is a voluntary program administered by The Salvation Army. When you give you are helping warm the lives of the elderly, disabled, and others who have nowhere else to turn. It helps the needy survive our long winter by providing funds for heating bills and heating related repairs. HeatShare is a last resort for many who have no other resources available to see them through the winter.

### Who is eligible for HeatShare?

- Seniors with low incomes and no alternate source of help
- Disabled people whose physical capabilities limit their ability to maintain income to adequately cover energy bills.
- People who have had unexpected emergencies within the last 12 months and as a result cannot pay for household energy costs.
- People who meet income guidelines and have received or applied for all other possible public funds.

### Who supports HeatShare?

You, neighbors, friends, people in big cities, people in small towns, and businesses all help by sending a tax deductible contribution with the form provided below. HeatShare is one way a small amount can help in a big way.

**Real People  
Saving Real  
Energy  
In Real Time**

*New!*



A free and easy tool  
to track  
your energy use  
and save!

*Conserve Energy!  
Save Money!*

**Sign Up for  
MYMETER™  
today at  
www.bpu.org**

**YES!** I want to contribute to HeatShare!

I am making a one-time contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to HeatShare & enclose this form with your utility payment in the enclosed envelope.

**Thank you for your generous tax deductible contribution!**

**COLD WARM  
HANDS Hearts**

