

@ your



SERVICE

NOVEMBER 2014 VOLUME 26, NUMBER 11

Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water

STEPS TO REDUCE UTILITY BILLS>>>

- Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60 to 70 degree range, you'll save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Wear warm clothing like a sweater and set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower during the day and evening, health permitting. Set the thermostat back to 55 degrees at night or when leaving home for an extended time, saving 5-20 percent of your heating costs.
- Replace or clean furnace filters as recommended. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use. Now is also the time for a furnace "tune-up." Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted will reduce energy use, saving up to 5 percent of heating costs.
- Reduce hot water temperature. Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120-degrees Fahrenheit, unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting. Savings are 7-11 percent of water heating costs.

Fast and Free >>>

Here are some suggestions you can do at home, at absolutely no cost to you.

Let the sunshine in. Open drapes and let the sun heat your home for free (get them closed again at sundown so they help insulate).

Rearrange your rooms. Move your furniture around so you are sitting near interior walls, exterior walls and older windows are likely to be drafty. Don't sit in the draft.

Eliminate wasted energy. Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't truly need it. This seemingly convenient way to keep extra drinks cold adds 10-25 percent to your electric bill. Turn off kitchen and bath ventilating fans after they've done their job. These fans can blow out a house full of heated air if inadvertently left on.

Shorten showers. Simply reducing that lingering time by a few minutes can save hundreds of gallons of hot water per month for a family of four. Showers account for 2/3 of your water heating costs. Cutting your showers in half will reduce your water heating costs by 33 percent.

Use appliances efficiently. Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Use the cold water setting on your clothes washer when you can.

Inexpensive Energy Solutions >>>

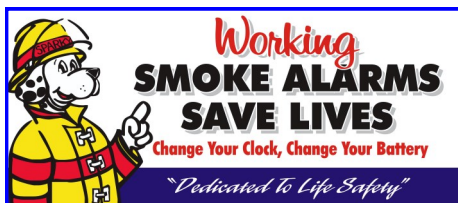
Every home is different. With a quick trip to your local hardware store, you have even more choices at hand.

Choose ENERGY STAR® Products. Replace incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent light bulbs, especially in high use light fixtures. Compact fluorescent lights use 75 percent less energy than incandescent lights.

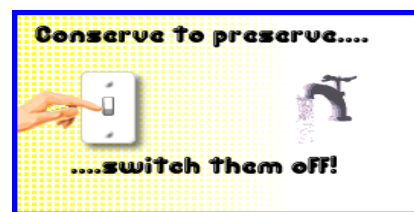
Seal up the leaks. Caulk leaks around windows and doors. Look for places where you have pipes, vents or electrical conduits that go through the wall, ceiling or floor, and install gaskets behind outlet covers. Check the bathroom, underneath the kitchen sink, pipes inside a closet, etc. If you find a gap at the point where the pipe or vents goes through the wall, seal it up. Caulk works best on small gaps. Your hardware store should have products to close the larger gaps, saving up to 10 percent on energy costs.

Install low-flow showerheads. If you do not already have them, low-flow showerheads and faucets can drastically cut your hot water expenses, saving 10-16 percent on water heating costs.

Wrap the hot water tank with jacket insulation. This is especially valuable for older water heaters with little internal insulation. Be sure to leave the air intake vent uncovered when insulating a gas water heater, saving up to 10 percent on water heating costs.



Money Isn't All You're Saving



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

Business & Repair Office Hours
7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Business: 829-8726

Repair: 829-2193

Emergency 24 hour service:
218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG WWW.BPU.ORG

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.



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. You can also donate online at <https://donate.salvationarmyusa.org/northern/heatshare>

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.**

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.