

## General Manager's Message

TODD GALE  
General Manager



Today "Going Green" is the popular catch phrase everyone likes to use. However, "Going Green" is easier said than done. One benefit of "Going Green" for utility customers can be lower utility bills. These savings can be found through efficiency and conservation. Efficiency is defined as doing the same job using less and can be gained through technology, while conservation is the reduction of usage.

When using more efficient equipment, the consumers may be required to spend more money today to save money in the future. For example, 50-60% of an average home's electrical use is for heating and cooling. When purchasing a new air conditioning unit, a higher efficiency unit may cost \$3,000 more. With an average annual bill of \$2,200 it may take up to 8 to 10 years to see a return on the investment. To help make this payback more feasible the Federal Government has implemented tax credits. Information for tax credits can be found at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). In addition, the state of Mississippi is offering rebates for more efficient appliances. This information can be found at [www.MississippiRebate.com](http://www.MississippiRebate.com). On a smaller scale, consumers can purchase compact florescent lights and save an average of \$35 over the life of the bulb. Compact florescent bulbs may cost six times as much as incandescent, but have a much shorter return on investment. Other efficiencies can be gained and range in scale of window replacement to window caulking.

In today's economic climate and with many on fixed incomes, changing windows or air conditioning units may not be realistic. In that case, the customer's only other option to reduce their utility bill is through conservation. Some forms of conservation are easier than others. Conservation can be as simple as cutting off lights in certain areas when not in use. However some forms of conservation sound easier than it actually is. Conservation, in most cases, requires a change of behavior. If you like your thermostat in the summer to be set at 66 degrees it may be hard for you to adjust it to 78 degrees. This is all a matter of personal choice.

With summer here and winter around the corner, I urge you to do as much as possible to either conserve or make efficiencies in your home. It's never too late to start! I wish you the best summer and hope you take advantage of hints found in this newsletter, [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com), or the U.S. Department of Energy. Through utilizing these resources and minimal changes in your behavior, "Going Green" may mean you keeping your hard earned dollar.

## Bring Your GREEN TO WORK with ENERGY STAR®

Learn how you can make many of the same green choices at work as you make at home to save energy and fight global warming with help from EPA's ENERGY STAR program.

**1 GIVE IT A REST** | Use the ENERGY STAR power management settings on your computer and monitor so they go into power save mode when not in use. Also use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are using equipment to completely disconnect the power supply.

**2 UNPLUG IT** | Unplug electronics such as cell phones and laptops once they are charged. Adapters plugged into outlets use energy even if they are not charging.

**3 LIGHT UP YOUR WORK LIFE** | Replace the light bulb in your desk lamp with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb. It will last up to 10 times longer and use about 75 percent less energy. Turn off the lights when you leave, especially at the end of the day.

**4 LET IT FLOW** | Keep air vents clear of paper, files, and office supplies. It takes as much as 25 percent more energy to pump air into the workspace if the vents are blocked.

**5 TEAM UP** | Create a Green Team with your co-workers, help build support for energy efficiency in your workplace, and reduce office waste. Set a goal to make your building an ENERGY STAR qualified building.



ENERGY STAR® is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program helping businesses and individuals fight global warming through superior energy efficiency.

Learn More at [energystar.gov/work](http://energystar.gov/work)



## 10 Easy Ways to Conserve Water

1. Collect the water you use for rinsing fruits and vegetables, then reuse it to water houseplants.
2. Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
3. Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.
4. When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
5. Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time.
6. Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Fixing a leak can save 300 gallons a month or more.
7. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Fixing it can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
8. Install a rain sensor on your irrigation controller so your system won't run when it's raining.
9. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.
10. Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water use plant for year-round landscape color and save 55 gallons each year.

To learn up to 100 ways to conserve water, visit [www.wateruseitwisely.com](http://www.wateruseitwisely.com).



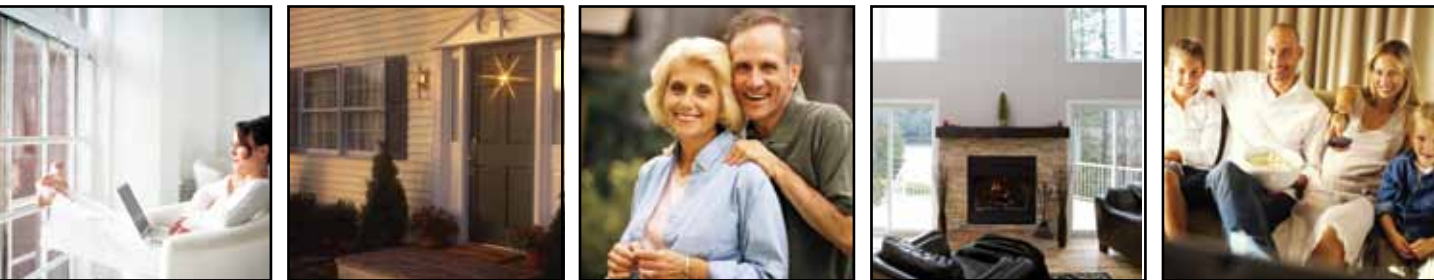
### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

## Call 243-7440

### CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY TO REPORT:

- Full or partial power outages
- A downed power line (Please DO NOT touch the line!)
- Water spewing from the ground, road or fire hydrant

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COLUMBUS, MS  
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### HOW IT WORKS

- Schedule an in-home energy evaluation with Columbus Light & Water by calling Linda Triplett at 662/328-7192, x221. The in-home evaluation fee is \$150.00, however, if the homeowner makes recommended improvements this fee will be reimbursed.
- After your home is evaluated, a report is created outlining the potential energy-efficiency modifications and available cash incentives.
- To ensure work is completed to TVA's standards, modifications must be made by a member of the TVA Quality Contractor Network, except for self-installed measures (as allowed by your local power company). The certified evaluator will provide the names of qualified contractors.
- All home modifications must be completed within 90 days. Once the work is finished, it will be inspected to ensure that everything is installed properly to maximize savings.
- After the inspection, you submit receipts for the completed work to be eligible for the cash incentive.

### CASH INCENTIVE OPTION

No matter how many modifications are made, \$500 is the maximum reimbursable amount for all approved work completed. Some modifications have lower maximum amounts, and some require pre-approval by Columbus Light & Water (see table on next page).

### ELIGIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

The items on the next page are eligible for financing or up to a 50 percent cash incentive on recommended installation measures. Some items may also be eligible for federal tax credits. For information, visit the Tax Incentives Assistance Project website at [www.energytaxincentives.org](http://www.energytaxincentives.org).

### NON-ELIGIBLE ITEMS

The following items are not eligible for this cash incentive: water heaters (including tankless), clothes washers or dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, insulated garage doors, storm doors, window film/solar screens, radiant barriers, room air conditioners, programmable thermostats (existing systems.)



## CASH IN with the IN-HOME ENERGY EVALUATION PROGRAM

Columbus Light & Water and TVA are making it easier than ever to become energy efficient while also saving money. With the new In-Home Energy Evaluation Program, you can reduce your power usage and receive a cash incentive for installing home energy improvements. The recommended energy-related home improvements you make are eligible for reimbursement of 50 percent of the installation cost, with an upper limit of \$500.

# IN-HOME ENERGY EVALUATION PROGRAM



ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE	REQUIREMENT	CASH INCENTIVE
<b>Replace Windows</b>	Must be ENERGY STAR®	\$500
<b>Storm Windows</b>	Must meet <i>energy right</i> ® requirements	\$500
<b>Duct Repair/ Replacement &amp; Sealing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing HVAC only</li> <li>• Air Distribution only</li> </ul>	\$500
<b>Rehabilitation Work</b>	Minor repair work such as broken glass, glazing or prime door replacement, with power company pre-approval	\$250
<b>Replace HVAC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All heat pumps included</li> <li>• Dual-fuel heat pumps</li> <li>• Air conditioning (with gas pack or gas split)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be ENERGY STAR®</li> <li>• Power company pre-approval for for dual-fuel or air conditioning</li> </ul>	\$250
<b>Attic Insulation/ Ventilation</b> <i>(must be nonpowered)</i>	Must meet <i>energy right</i> ® requirements <i>(Weatherization)</i>	\$500
<b>Floor or Perimeter Insulation, and Ground Cover</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must meet <i>energy right</i>® requirements <i>(Weatherization)</i></li> <li>• Where allowed by codes</li> </ul>	\$500
<b>Water Heater Insulation</b>	Electric Only	\$50
<b>Air Sealing</b> <i>(Including weatherstrip and caulk)</i>	Must meet <i>energy right</i> ® requirements <i>(Weatherization)</i>	\$500
<b>Self-Installed Insulation, Caulk, Weatherstrip, Rehabilitation</b> <i>(as defined above)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only the cost of materials may be claimed</li> <li>• Power company pre-approval</li> </ul>	\$250
<b>HVAC tune-up</b>	Must be performed by QCN contractor	\$150