

We Appreciate Your Business

We at the newly recreated Columbus Division of Power would like to thank you for being a customer. We are very proud to be one of more than 2,000 municipal systems in the country providing reliable and competitive electricity. As a municipal customer, you may wonder if you are eligible to participate in a third party electricity provider program. Columbus Power does not offer a third party provider option, but we are, and will remain, your best electricity provider choice. Please take a moment to review the following information so you will be confident that buying electricity from Columbus Power is the right choice - and we know you have one.

- **Columbus offers competitive rates and long term pricing stability.** We purchase power through long-term contracts and from the most competitive power providers available. The city leverages buying power to provide competitive pricing and long term stability for our customers.

- **Local control and service that outperforms big utilities.** Columbus Power provides extremely reliable power and outstanding service. If you have been in central Ohio for any length of time, you know our weather can be severe and even through storms, your power was either not affected or restored quickly. That was the case last summer following the destructive derecho and a subsequent storm; a majority of our customers were back in power within 24 hours. Our power outage response is outstanding because you are our priority, and when weather strikes, we devote every available resource to that response, immediately.

- **Energy efficiency programs:** as a member of American Municipal Power (AMP), we offer various programs

and grants for efficiency improvements. Please visit the Efficiency Smart Website for information and many electricity savings offers: <http://www.energysmart.org/index.aspx>.

- **Be aware of the risks of switching to a third party electricity supplier.** You must change your electric company in order to use a third party provider, there may be charges, and you will lose the reliability and service of Columbus Power. Offers may not include all costs and may be short term. Carefully consider the contract terms. Is the price fixed or variable? What charges will be included on your bill? Your new electricity bill may be more complex with many "add-ons." Early termination fees may also apply. Another important consideration is the volatile electricity market. The market can experience many swings in power prices. Most consumers do not follow these markets and other offers you receive may be for a relatively short time. After the promotional offer ends, you could be subject to higher prices or be required to obtain a new and less attractive agreement.



A customer thanks DOP, summer 2012

The Columbus Division of Power is proud to be a part of the Columbus community, as we have been since the late 1800s. Every day we strive to provide the best electric service at the least possible cost.

If you have questions, or would like to know more about our operations, please visit our Web site at www.utilities.columbus.gov or contact us at (614) 645-7360.

Herbert M. Johanson, P.E., Administrator

Please join Columbus Public Utilities on Facebook and Twitter.



Knowing Where Consumption Goes is Key to Controlling Bills

As costs rise for cities and power companies to provide power and those increases are passed along to customers, it seems everyone is looking for ways to save money on their electric bills. There are opportunities to reduce energy usage in almost every home, office and industrial setting. A starting point is to determine where your largest usage is. Here are some tips:

HV/AC

Furnaces and air conditioners are frequently the biggest energy users. For optimal operation, change filters monthly or more often as needed. Keep your heating and cooling units in good working condition by getting annual inspections and making any needed repairs. Thermostat settings drive the consumption on these items, so either use a programmable one or adjust things when you leave or go to bed. An easy way to save is to set it at 65 degrees in the winter and 78 in the summer.

Lower cooling costs

Other tips to reduce cooling costs: ceiling fans can help circulate air in a room and reduce the need for air conditioning. During hot weather, it helps to close blinds or curtains to block out the sun. Planting fast-growing, larger shade trees on the south and west sides of your house can help with future cooling costs.

Hot water tanks

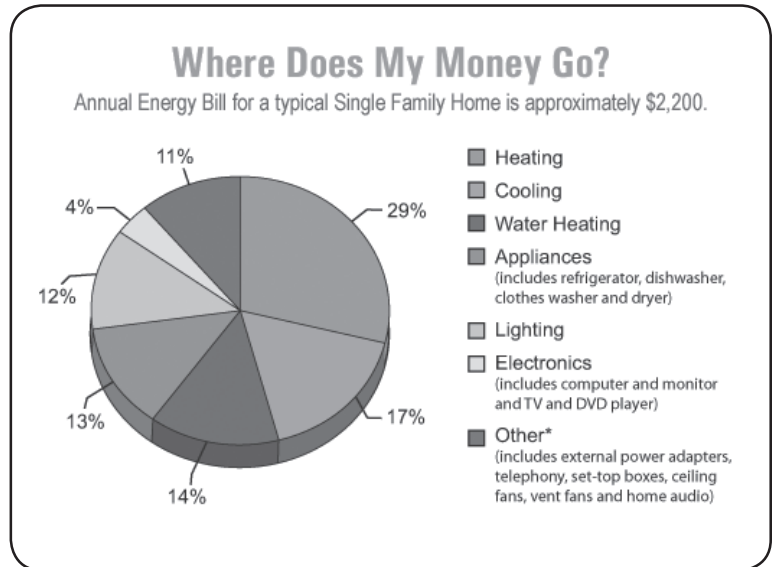
If your hot water tank is electric, check the settings to make sure it is not adjusted higher than needed, and turn it down when you will be out of town. You may also want to put an insulating blanket on it if it is located in an unheated space.

Household appliances

Larger appliances like dryers and refrigerators can consume a lot of electricity; use them wisely. Set dryer times for no longer than is needed. Clean the lint filter after every use. Consider hang drying some items for additional savings. Refrigerator settings do not usually need to be on the highest setting to preserve food properly. Between 35 and 38 degrees is ideal, which can be checked with a thermometer. Keep major appliances in good working order and defrost freezers when needed. At replacement time, look for Energy Star rated models for maximum efficiency.

Light bulbs

Have you changed over to compact fluorescent or LED light bulbs yet? Incandescent bulbs consume more



Source: Typical House memo, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, 2009 and Typical house_2009_Reference.xls spreadsheet.

power than you may think. LED and CFLs cost more than incandescent bulbs to buy, but will save money in the long run with reduced consumption and a longer life.

Electronics

Remember to turn off all electronic devices when not in use, particularly televisions, computers and video game units. For additional savings, unplug them or turn off the power strip.

Interested in learning more?

Please consider applying for a Columbus GreenSpot! This Web-based program was designed to inspire, educate and recognize those in our community who are taking steps to live green. Over 6,000 members are making an impact on the health and future of Columbus. Residences, businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, classrooms and community groups can become a GreenSpot by committing to environmentally friendly choices in the areas of energy conservation, water conservation and waste reduction. Learn more and complete a simple application at www.columbusgreen-spot.org.

For more information, please call 311, 645-3111 or visit www.utilities.columbus.gov.

