



The stimulus package and your energy

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, known as the stimulus bill, will provide additional funding to help many consumers weatherize their homes and make energy efficiency improvements.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says weatherization—the process of sealing air leaks and properly insulating a home—can reduce heating bills by up to 32 percent, resulting in an average energy savings of \$358 per year.

In the past, only households that earned up to 150 percent of the national poverty level were eligible to participate. The stimulus bill extends eligibility to those with incomes below 200 percent of the national poverty level. For a family of four, that's an income limit of \$44,100.

If your family income meets the program guidelines, East Missouri Action Agency's Weatherization Department will provide a free in-home energy audit to determine how you can save energy. Workers will then make energy upgrades like insulating walls and roofs, sealing air leaks,

and installing more efficient heating and cooling systems. The process to weatherize a home through the program usually takes two days with an average cost of \$2,500. The stimulus bill allows the agency to spend up to \$6,500 on each home for energy efficiency improvements.

For members not eligible for federally funded programs, the stimulus plan provides a homeowner an efficiency tax credit of up to \$1,500, or 30 percent of the cost for new energy upgrades including weatherization activities and installation of efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

Even if you don't qualify for a free energy audit, Citizens Electric has worked out an arrangement with East Missouri Action Agency to provide energy audits to our members at a discounted rate of \$100. Make sure to tell them you are a Citizens' member to receive the discount.

To see if you may qualify for energy assistance or a free energy audit, call EMAA at 1-800-392-8663 or go to www.eastmoaa.org. To find out more about energy efficiency, go to <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/energy/>.

Speak out about electric costs and climate change

Demand for electricity in America is growing. It's estimated that we will need 30% more electricity by 2030 to power our homes and businesses. New sources of electricity will be expensive.

Unless we act soon, there won't be enough electric power to meet our nation's needs in the next decade.

The challenge before Congress is to make sure we have affordable electricity while meeting climate change goals.

The solutions won't be easy, but America's electric co-ops are ready to work with Congress to implement an energy plan we can all afford.

Ask your elected officials to work with America's consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops. Ask them what they plan to do to increase electric generation while keeping rates affordable. Start a dialogue with your legislators now at www.ourenergy.coop.

By working together, we can find the right solutions with the right balance and build a brighter future.

Start the Dialogue by going to

www.ourenergy.coop or returning this form!

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail _____

I am a member of Citizens Electric Corporation

Member Signature _____

Return with your payment or mail to:

Citizens Electric Corporation * P.O. Box 311
Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

Don't fall for energy-efficiency scams

Rising electric rates and environmental concerns are causing consumers to look for ways to lower their energy bills. Some companies are selling products that promise big savings and sound too good to be true.

Ask important questions like: "Have reputable, independent test labs certified the products? Why hasn't the utility industry endorsed these amazing gadgets? How can guarantees of 20- to 50-percent savings be true?"

Ads are appearing that claim metered electricity from a utility can be improved to help home appliances and HVAC systems operate more efficiently and cheaper. This power conditioning equipment is said to improve power factor which will lower residential bills considerably.

The facts are: CEC already uses capacitors to correct power factor on our lines; and residential consumers are not charged for power factor, only kilowatt-hours used.



Meters are sealed for safety and to prevent tampering.

Some devices must be wired into the home's electrical system and are being marketed with unsafe and potentially illegal installation advice. Do-it-yourself installers are instructed to open their meter bases and pull their own electric meters.

The electric meter shall only be removed by a trained Citizens Electric employee. Removal of a CEC meter by someone other than a properly trained CEC employee is unsafe and could result in a serious injury. In addition, such action could put the account holder at risk of charges for meter tampering and theft of electric service.

So, don't fall victim to claims of electric bill saving devices that seem too good to be true. Use common sense and seek advice from Citizens Electric before installing any device that involves exposure to dangerous high voltage or tampering with the electric meter.

Call Before You Dig *It's the law!*

Digging into an underground utility can be an expensive and dangerous experience. Avoid the risk by following Missouri's law requiring anyone who excavates to notify Missouri One Call at least 3 working days, but no more than 10 working days, prior to excavating activity.

There are three different ways to place a locate request with the Missouri One Call System.

1. Go to www.mo1call.com
2. Call 8-1-1 or 1-800-DIG-RITE
3. Fax 1-800-217-3717

Missouri One Call accepts locate requests 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All utilities owning underground facilities on public right-of-ways will be notified to mark the approximate location of their lines. Utility types are identified by their color codes.

Maintain A/C for maximum efficiency

Just as a car requires routine tune-ups and maintenance, heating and cooling systems need to be professionally inspected before each season in order to operate at maximum efficiency. So before you turn on your air conditioner, schedule an inspection of your system with an HVAC (heating, ventilating and air conditioning) professional. Take care of your cooling equipment now, and it will take care of you this summer.

A seasonal inspection usually includes having the technician look over the air conditioning system, checking the filter, oiling the motor, cleaning the condenser on the outside and checking the refrigerant. While he's there, ask if your duct work looks like it's tightly connected, as leaky duct work can be a cause of heating and cooling loss.

If you're thinking about replacing your air conditioner, now is the time to consider purchasing a heat pump. Not only is it an efficient method of cooling your home in the summer, it's also an economical way to keep you warm in the winter. Savings will vary, but the typical residential consumer who switches from an electric resistance furnace to an air-source heat pump realizes significant savings!

UNIFORM COLOR CODE FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES	
	PROPOSED EXCAVATION
	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS
	ELECTRIC POWER LINES, CABLES, CONDUIT AND LIGHTING CABLES
	GAS, OIL, STEAM, PETROLEUM OR GASEOUS MATERIALS
	COMMUNICATION, ALARM OR SIGNAL LINES, CABLES OR CONDUIT
	POTABLE WATER
	RECLAIMED WATER, IRRIGATION AND SLURRY LINES
	SEWERS AND DRAIN LINES

 **CALL OR CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG!**
Dig Safely.
1-800-344-7483 OR DIAL 811
WWW.MO1CALL.COM
MISSOURI ONE CALL SYSTEM, INC.