

News Line

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Don't miss 2010 energy efficiency programs

If you're considering making home improvements to lower your electric bills, there may not be a better time than now. At press time, federal tax credits and CEC's current rebate programs are scheduled to expire December 31, 2010. Although we anticipate CEC will offer some sort of energy efficiency program in 2011, we don't want you to miss out on the following incentives:

- \$50 rebate when you purchase an ENERGY STAR® certified clothes washer
- \$125 per ton rebate on the purchase of an air-source heat pump
- \$150 per ton rebate on a ground-source heat pump
- \$35 payment if you give up your second refrigerator or freezer
- Residential energy audits at a discounted price of \$200 for homes with up to 3,000 square feet of conditioned living space. In order to qualify, you must have electric heat or an electric water heater.
- If you have an energy audit done on your home, CEC will reimburse up to \$200 on energy efficient improvements you make in 2010 or upgrades to ENERGY STAR® certified appliances.

If you can't afford to make any major improvements this year, tackle no-cost and low-cost ways to become energy efficient. Go to www.cecmo.com for more information.



Recycling program tops 1,500 units



As a part of an energy efficiency effort started in May, CEC members can call a toll-free number to arrange for old, inefficient refrigerators and/or freezers to be hauled away and recycled.

Wabash Valley Power Association (WVPA), Citizens Electric's power supplier, has contracted with JACO Environmental to handle the process. To date, 1,500 units have been picked up or are scheduled for pick-up from WVPA's 28 member distribution cooperatives.

According to JACO, refrigerators and freezers that are more than 10 years old, use two to three times more electricity than new models. Most consumers don't realize that the money they spend buying refrigerated or frozen goods in volume is wasted on the cost of storage.

To schedule an appliance pick-up, call 1-877-395-5535. CEC members will receive a check for \$35 once the unit has been recycled.

Notice of 2009 allocation factor

CEC's Board of Directors has authorized a capital credit allocation for 2009 at a factor of 8.2538 percent. Capital credits are allocated (assigned) whenever revenues exceed expenses. The sum of members' monthly bills (excluding taxes) for the year is multiplied by the allocation factor to determine their capital credits. The allocation factor varies from year to year, depending on the financial results of the cooperative.

These allocated capital credits will be retired at the discretion of the Board of Directors whenever the financial condition of the Corporation allows. Retirements are done on a rotation basis where the oldest capital credits are paid out first. The last capital credit retirement was earlier this year, and it included purchased electricity from 1990 and 1991. Since 1993, nearly \$17.6 million in capital credits have been returned to CEC's members.

Know the facts about electric space heaters

You've probably seen ads for electric space heaters claiming to save consumers up to 50 percent on their electric bills. They use all the right descriptive words to reel you in, i.e. energy efficient, convenient, safe, and "attractive addition to any decor." Who doesn't want to find an easy, inexpensive way to lower their electric bills? Wow! It almost sounds too good to be true.

Before you whip out your credit card and make that call, know the facts. Under what conditions would you actually save money using one of these heaters? How much will it cost to operate, and is there a better way to heat your home for less?

First of all, understand that any time you add supplemental electric heat to an existing electric central heating system, your usage (and electric bill) will probably increase. That is, unless you lower the home's thermostat considerably.

Unfortunately, lowering the temperature 10-15 degrees means sacrificing comfort in the rest of the house. And moving the portable heater from room to room is inconvenient and could risk burn injuries, blowing fuses or fire.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are related to the use of space heaters. Before you buy, make sure the unit bears the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label and that it is equipped with the latest safety features including low-temperature exterior, child-safe grill and tip-over safety switch.

How much will it cost to operate a space heater? Most electric space heaters have heat output settings of 500,

750, 1,000 or 1,500 watts. To calculate the cost to operate any appliance: **Kilowatts x Time x Rate = Cost**. To convert watts to kilowatts, divide the watts by 1,000. Calculate time based on estimated usage during the month.

Example: How much would it cost per month to operate a 1,500 watt unit for 10 hours per day?

$$1,500 \div 1,000 = 1.5 \text{ kilowatts (KW)}$$

$$10 \times 30 \text{ days} = 300 \text{ hours/mo}$$

$$\text{Rate} = 10\text{¢ per kWh}$$

$$1.5 \times 300 \times \$0.10 = \$45$$



It is true that a space heater is more efficient to warm a "small space" than an electric forced-air furnace. That's because there is no heat loss from combustion or ductwork. However, a heat pump is more than twice as efficient as other electric heating methods.

Buying a space heater may be a temporary fix, but you could save energy year round by weatherizing your home using caulk, expandable foam, weatherstripping, plastic window kits and adding more insulation.



If you need help identifying how to lower your energy consumption, consider having a whole-house energy audit. Using a blower-door test and infrared camera, a technician can identify areas of concern and make recommendations to improve your comfort and your bills. East Missouri Action Agency offers free audits to qualifying consumers, and CEC offers discounted audits for \$200, with potential reimbursement up to \$200 for energy efficiency improvements made after the audit. Go to www.cecmo.com for more information or call 1-877-876-3511.

September winner announced

Congratulations to **John Moss** of Jackson who won \$100! He was randomly selected from all CEC members who paid on time in September.

You still have a chance to win! This promotion will continue through December, so make sure your payment is received in one of CEC's local offices by the due date of the original bill (not the delinquent notice). You could be the next winner!

Member survey deadline is near

Time is running out to return your completed survey that was enclosed with the October bill. Don't worry if you've misplaced the paper survey, it's available online at www.cecmo.com. All entries must be received in our office by December 1, 2010, in order to qualify for the drawing.

We appreciate you taking the time to tell us about yourself. This information will help us understand your electrical needs in order to provide you the best service possible. Furthermore, who couldn't use an extra \$50 right before Christmas?

