Electric Dispatch

November 2004 A newsletter to inform the customers of Roseville Electric

Hot Tips for Winter Energy Savings



When the temperatures start dropping, it's tempting to push that thermostat higher. But if you follow these energy-smart tips, you can stay cozy and warm and keep those energy bills low.

Prevent heat from slipping through the cracks. Make sure any leaks are filled with weather stripping, caulking, or foam. Anywhere two materials meet (around windows, where pipes enter walls, around light sockets and switches), offers an escape route for your heated air (and energy dollars). Don't forget to weather strip around your attic door, too. Also, keep closet doors closed to reduce the square footage you need to heat.



Use your fans for comfort. Your central fan should be set on 'auto' position so it will come on only when your furnace or heat pump is running. If it is in the 'on' position, it will run constantly, using energy and causing discomfort by moving cool air in the house. If you use ceiling fans to push warm air down, they should be set on the low speed.

Close your fireplace damper. The only time you need a fireplace damper open is when you need to draw smoke into the chimney — otherwise, you're simply drawing warm air up and out of your home. Check to be certain the damper closes well. If you have glass doors on your fireplace, keep those closed, too.

Put your water heater under wraps. Keep in the warmth from heated water by wrapping your water heater in an insulation blanket available at most hardware stores.

Change or clean your furnace filter every month. A clean air filter prevents your furnace from working harder than it has to. It's easy to forget, so you might want to mark a note on the same day on your calendar each month or set a recurring alert on your computer to remind you.

Spending a little time taking these inexpensive steps can add up to big wintertime energy savings!

For more energy-saving tips, visit www.RosevilleElectric.org, or call 79-POWER (797-6937).

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR ENERGY AND WATER USE?

Yes? Then all you have to do is take our free RE-View[™] online energy and water audit. In less than a half hour, you can learn all about your energy and water use and receive a personalized profile that will tell you how to use less energy and water and lower your monthly bills.

Talk to Us!

If you have an energy-related question or want to know about an energy-efficiency technology or product, let us know. You can reach us by emailing rosevilleelectric@roseville.ca.us or by calling 79-POWER (797-6937).

Heat Pumps: Pros and Cons

While you may know that you can heat your home with a furnace or a heat pump, many people do not know the difference in how the two systems operate. Basically, a heat pump extracts heat from the outside air and pumps it into your home, while a furnace generates heat and blows heated air into your home.

How a heat pumps works

A heat pump is your air conditioner running in reverse. An air conditioner uses a refrigerant to extract the heat from the air inside your house, circulating the cooler air back into your home and releasing the heat outside. A heat pump uses the same refrigerant to extract heat from the outside air, pumping the heat inside your home.

How a furnace works

An oversimplified explanation of a furnace is that it's like a gas blow torch with a fan pushing heat into the home. Today's furnaces are quite a bit more complex and offer a very efficient use of the combustion process to lower natural gas consumption.

Advantages (Pros)

Heat pumps use an unlimited resource — heat taken from the air — and they are the most efficient way to electrically heat your home. Also, because they operate best at a constant temperature, you do not have to change thermostat settings unless you are gone form the house for a long period. It is best to use a two-stage programmable thermostat made just for heat pumps.

Disadvantages (Cons)

The only issue with heat pumps is that they do not operate efficiently when the outside air temperature is lower than 40° because there isn't enough heat in the outside air to extract. At those times, heat pumps use electricity to heat coils (much like your toaster's coils) to generate heat. In a coldweather climate, that can be costly. With our moderate climate and very few days below 40°, heat pumps can provide a costeffective alternative.

Rebates available

If it is time to replace your heat pump system, be sure to look into Roseville Electric's incentives to help lower the cost. To find out more, visit the residential rebate section on our Web site at www.RosevilleElectric.org or call us at 74-POWER (797-6937).

HOW AN ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP WORKS



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ROSEVILLE ENERGY PARK UPDATE

Roseville's new power plant continues to move through the California Energy Commission's approval process. State law

requires all new power plants to be approved and licensed by the CEC. To get the latest update or information regarding the state approval process, visit the CEC's web site section devoted to the project at www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ roseville/index.html. Once approved and constructed, the Roseville Energy Park is expected to provide about 60 percent of Roseville's existing electricity needs.



COLOR YOUR ELECTRICITY GREEN!

Ask about RE's Green Energy programs — your chance to buy electricity from renewable sources. Visit the Green Energy section of our Web site at www.RosevilleElectric.org or call us at call 79-POWER (797-6937).



The Power of... Convenience

The Utility Billing Division has extended its service hours for customer convenience.

The new hours of operation are

Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The extended hours are now available for the Civic Center finance counter and the utility billing phone line, 774-5300.



Did You Know?

One of the most common mistakes people make when trying to save energy is not getting the ducts checked for leakage when installing a new heating and cooling system. Leaky ducts are one of the most common – and costly – energy wasters.

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Kid's Corner: Hidden Word Puzzle

Energizing fun for you and your kids!

Y	С	Α	v	Ρ	Ν	Е	Μ	К	Y	L	В	0	Х	G
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HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS!

In the weeks before Christmas, all through our streets, Santa will visit, with his bags filled with treats!

One of Roseville's favorite holiday traditions is back again. This year, our 8th annual Neighborhood Santa motorcade will be making its way through selected neighborhoods on December 6, 7, 9, 14 and 16.

Don't miss the opportunity to share the season's excitement with your children. Santa's routes will be posted on the city's Web site in mid-November. Just log onto www.roseville.ca.us and click on "Neighborhood Santa." Using a special online map, you'll be able to find the route closest to your home.

Or you can speak directly to one of Santa's elves. Beginning November 15, you can call Santa's hotline at (916) 746-1388, Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Or call (916) 774-5842 for a recorded message with route information.

Happy holidays!



FIND THESE ENERGY TERMS HIDDEN IN THE LETTERS

Air Conditioning	Kilowatt
Ben Franklin	Light bulb
Efficiency	Photovoltai
Electricity	Power
Energy	Renewable
Fahrenheit	Shade Trees
Green Energy	Solar Power
leating	Thomas Edi
Hydroelectric	Wind Energy



Puzzle Solution:

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2090 HILLTOP CIRCLE, ROSEVILLE, CA 95747-9704 916 797.6937 | 916 774.5220 TDD 916 774.5428 24-HR OUTAGE HOTLINE

FIND US ON THE WEB: WWW.ROSEVILLEELECTRIC.ORG

