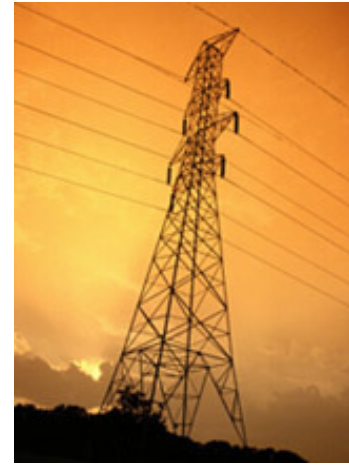


Save Money on Utilities



Pre-reading

Questions:

- How much do you pay for utilities?
- Would you like to pay less?

Definitions:

- Dread – to have a fear of what is to come
- Utility – a public service such as gas, electricity or water
- % - a symbol meaning percent; read it as “percent”

Reading

18 It comes every month. Look inside the mailbox. There it is...the dreaded utility bill. Is it scary
37 to open? Does the “amount due” seem to grow larger and larger? How can you **shrink** the size of
your bill? How can you save money on utilities?

46 Cooling and Heating

- 49 • Set the thermostat at the highest comfortable level in the summer and the lowest in the
65 winter. It is best to set it no lower than 78 degrees in the summer. Each extra degree can
84 raise cooling costs by 6%. Set it no higher than 68 degrees in the winter. Each extra degree
102 can raise heating costs by 3% (or more).
- 110 • Use fans to move the air. Fans use about one-tenth as much electricity as an air conditioner.
128 They make it feel about 10 degrees cooler.
- 136 • Look for areas where air is leaking out. Check around doors, windows, and other areas that
152 may feel **drafty**. Use caulk, weather stripping, or plastic to close the gaps. A one-eighth
168 opening around two doorframes will let in as much warm/cold air as a small window open
185 6 inches.
- 187 • Close doors or heating vents in rooms that do not get much use.
- 199 • In the summer, keep sunlight out by closing blinds or curtains. In the winter, let the warmth
216 of the sunlight in.

220 Electricity

- 221 • Use your microwave instead of your stove. It can save you 50% in energy costs for cooking.
- 238 • Use the new fluorescent bulbs. They last 10 times longer and use less energy. They also
254 provide four times as much light.

260 Use these simple tips, and you’ll be doing two great things. You will save money and save
277 energy. It’s good for your wallet and good for our earth!

288

