

NEWS RELEASE
TAUNTON MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Save energy this summer by making changes now

(Taunton, MA) – The warm winds of spring will give way to warmer temperatures that can sometimes be uncomfortable. While we often rely on air conditioners and fans to ease that discomfort, doing so may lead to higher energy bills if appropriate energy improvements in the home haven't been made during the cooler months.

That's why Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant reminds customers to take a few minutes now to help save money this summer:

- Turn off your heating system now and use it only when needed. - If you leave your windows open to enjoy the weather, remember that the warm temperatures at mid-day go down in the late afternoon, especially during the spring months. A thermostat will call for heat when it's set to a temperature higher than the outside air.
- Seal around the window air conditioner unit so cool air cannot escape.
- Hose off the outdoor condensing unit on your central air conditioner to remove dirt and leaves. Have your central air unit serviced every two years.
- If your furnace filter is dirty, you should replace it each month.
- Plant a deciduous shade tree to the south or west of your home to keep it cooler.

- Clean under and in back of the refrigerator. - Dust can build up, causing the refrigerator to run less efficiently.
- Dust or wipe your light bulbs. - Clean bulbs provide more light.
- Replace high-use incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs and fixtures; they use two-thirds less energy and last up to 10 times longer.

And when the weather does get hot:

- Use shades and drapes to block out direct sun during the day.
- Use your grill or a microwave oven instead of a stove. You could save money and be more comfortable.
- Use a whole house fan, room fans or ceiling fans instead of air-conditioning whenever you can.
- Set your air conditioner's thermostat to 78°F or higher.
- Turn off the air conditioner when no one is home. To control cooling times you can use a programmable thermostat for central air, or Use a timer for room air conditioners.

For more information, visit the TMLP website at www.tmlp.com. Additional information can be obtained by calling TMLP's energy advisors at 888-772-4242.