

Energynews

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State Offers Energy Assistance Programs

While Atlantic City Electric's rates will remain stable this winter, we're concerned about the impact of higher overall energy costs on our customers.

Atlantic City Electric customers can apply for energy assistance through the Universal Service Fund (USF) and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Both funds exist to help income-eligible Atlantic City Electric customers with their energy bills.

USF

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities created the Universal Service Fund to help income-eligible households pay for electric and natural gas service. Household income and energy utility costs will determine eligibility. The maximum benefit given is \$150 a month or \$1,800 a year. To find the agency serving your county, call 1-866-240-1347.

LIHEAP

The federal government provides energy assistance to income-eligible households through its Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The program helps pay for heating costs and may cover certain medically-necessary cooling expenses. Customers may apply for assistance through this program up to March 31, 2006. For application details, call 1-800-510-3102.

Other Programs

In addition, New Jersey residents may be eligible for energy assistance through the following programs:

New Jersey Comfort Partners – 1-888-773-8326 – Helps eligible households reduce their energy costs by installing energy efficient measures and repairing or replacing heating or cooling equipment.

Lifeline Program – 1-800-792-9745 – Helps disabled and senior citizen homeowners and renters with paying their gas and electric bills.

New Jersey Shares – 1-866-657-4273 – Helps customers who are experiencing a temporary financial crisis with paying their gas and electric bills.

For additional billing inquiries or account information, please call Atlantic City Electric Customer Care, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at 1-800-642-3780 or TTY, 1-800-898-8056.

Atlantic City Electric customers can also dial 2-1-1 for energy assistance. 2-1-1 is a new, statewide number that connects New Jersey residents with the resources they need to solve problems. The number is free to call and offers information on utility programs, such as USF, LIHEAP, Lifeline, New Jersey Shares and Comfort Partners.

Test Your Energy-Savings IQ

1. Compact fluorescent bulbs use less energy than incandescent bulbs and last longer.

a) True b) False

2. You can save ____% on your heating costs for every degree you reduce the temperature below 70 degrees during the heating season.

a) 1% b) 3% c) 5%

3. Adding weather stripping and caulk can save you ____% or more in annual energy costs?

a) 3% b) 5% c) 10%

4. If you have a forced-air heating system, how often should you clean or replace the filter?

a) every two weeks b) monthly
c) every other month
d) every six months

5. In the winter, ____ is second to space heating in energy consumption.

a) lighting b) cooking
c) water heating

Answers

1) a 2) b 3) c 4) b 5) c



Delaware (Area code 302)

Feb 4: 25th Annual Stamp Day; The Stamp Center/Dutch Country Auctions, 4115 Concord Pike, Wilm.; 302-478-8740

Feb 17-19: The Lewes Historical Society Fine Art Show and Sale; Society Museums, Lewes; 302-645-7670, www.historiclewes.org

Feb 25: 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Gala; PAL, 3707 N. Market St., Wilm.; 764-6170

Feb 25: Rehoboth Beach Merchant's Attic I and General Public Garage Sale; Rehoboth Beach Convention Center; 800-441-1329 x12 or 302-227-2233, www.beach-fun.com

Maryland (Area code 410)

Feb 12: Ward Museum 30th Anniversary Volunteer Art Exhibit; Salisbury University, LaMay Gallery

Feb 12: Mid-Atlantic Symphony Orchestra Mid-Season Concert; Community Church at Ocean Pines; 888-846-8600, www.midatlanticsymphony.org

Feb 17-19 Seaside Boat Show; Convention Center, 40th & Bay; 410-632-3676

Feb 23: Program on Gloria Richardson; Dorchester Public Library; 410-228-7331

New Jersey (Area code 609, 856)

Feb 3: Boheme Opera New Jersey; Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton; (609) 581-7200

Feb 11: Inspiring Vocals- The Holmes Brothers; Appel Farm, Elmer; www.appelfarm.org 609-898-8848

Feb 14: Romantic Full Moon Night Hike; Rancocas Nature Center, Mount Holly; 609-261-2495

Feb 17: Ladysmith Black Mambazo; McCarter Theater, Princeton; 609-258-2787

Feb 25: Romona Quimby; Appel Farm, Elmer; 800-394-1211, www.appelfarm.org

Feb 26: Kid's Expo; Cape May Convention Hall; 609-898-8848

Virginia (Area code 757)

Feb 18: Mardi Gras - A Masked Affair; Chincoteague Center; 757-336-0614, www.chincoteaguecenter.org

For additional listings click on "In Your Community" at our Web site. In the Atlantic City Electric Region, visit www.atlanticcityelectric.com, and in the Delmarva Power Region, visit: www.delmarva.com. To include a future event either in ENYCU or online, fax to 302-283-6095, or send an e-mail to Energy.News@pepcoholdings.com.

This winter, many people will pay more to heat their homes as the prices of heating oil, propane and natural gas have gone up. Here are a few steps you can take to reduce your energy consumption and save on your heating bill:

- Lower the temperature setting on your thermostat. You save 3 percent on your heating bill for every degree you lower the setting below 70 degrees.
- Change your furnace filters on a monthly basis. A clogged filter can use up to five percent more energy.
- Set your refrigerator thermostat between 38 and 40 degrees and your freezer at five degrees. Also, clean the coils on a regular basis to reduce the amount of energy those appliances use.
- Use the microwave when possible rather than the oven. The microwave uses less energy.
- Use cold water when practical rather than hot to operate your food disposal or to perform other tasks in and around your home.

Atlantic City Electric has an extensive list of energy conservation tips. Visit our Web site at www.atlanticcityelectric.com and click on the Read Conservation Tips link. We also have a new brochure with energy savings ideas and information on where to get help paying energy bills. It's called "85 Ways To Save Money & Energy".

To get your copy log on to www.atlanticcityelectric.com or call 800-642-3780.

The Alliance to Save Energy also has more energy-saving information at www.ase.org.



Web News

Atlantic City Electric's Web site, www.atlanticcityelectric.com, has a fresh new look. We have redesigned the site to improve navigation and make it easier for you to find the information you need, such as current power outage information, options for paying your electric bill, tips on ways to conserve energy and save money, as well as a variety of other useful information.

We held focus groups with customers to get their thoughts on making the site more convenient and user friendly and the new design reflects that input. So log on to www.atlanticcityelectric.com and check it out.

We welcome additional ideas for improving the site. Go to the home page, click on the "comments and inquiries" link and forward your suggestions.