

ComEd Offers Cool Tips on How to Combat Heat and Lower Electricity Bills

This summer marks one of the hottest in decades. In fact, the average high temperature in July was 86.6 degrees, when ComEd residential customers used an estimated 55 to 65 percent more energy to cool their homes. As a result, ComEd customers are seeing higher bills due to higher electricity usage this summer compared to the summer of 2009, which was one of the coolest on record.

ComEd is offering customers these tips on how they can reduce energy consumption while keeping cool and lowering their electric bill.

- Keep thermostats at a constant, comfortable level (75 to 78 degrees) when at home. Lowering the thermostat setting below the desired temperature will not cool the home faster.
- To reduce heat and moisture during the warmest part of the day, run appliances such as ovens, washing machines, dryers and dishwashers in the early morning or evening hours when it's generally cooler outside. Also, use a microwave to cook, or barbecue outside, if possible.
- Keep shades, blinds and curtains closed. About 40 percent of unwanted heat comes through windows. Simply drawing blinds and curtains, which act as a layer of insulation, can reduce heat gain to your home. Awnings are even better, and can reduce heat gain by up to 75 percent. Window coatings and window film can reflect as much as 80 percent of direct rays from the sun.
- Keep doors to the outside, garage or attic firmly closed to keep cool air in and hot air out.
- Use fans to evenly distribute cool air and reduce the air conditioner's "on" time.
- Place window air conditioners on the north or shady side of the house to avoid overworking the unit in the hot daytime sun.

ComEd also offers assistance funds for customers experiencing financial hardship. Please contact your ComEd External Affairs Manager for more information. Thank you.