



Make Pittsburgh Even Cooler in April:

Get smart about heat in your home; install a programmable thermostat

Every year, people across the U.S. waste an amazing amount of energy heating things up unnecessarily, and that energy waste translates directly into a loss of our hard-earned cash and more global warming.

- **Save Energy and Money**

Many people keep their thermostats at a constant temperature throughout the day. However, this means a lot of energy and money are being wasted during the hours when people aren't at home or when they are asleep. People can actually save around 10 percent on their yearly heating and cooling bills if they cut back thermostat temperatures by 10°F - 15°F for eight hours a day. Considering most daily schedules, this is usually a relatively easy task to achieve.

Instead of manually adjusting your thermostat every day, you can install a programmable thermostat to help you. This device will automatically adjust temperatures according to a pre-set schedule, which allows you the freedom to maintain your daily schedule while saving energy and money. By using a programmable thermostat to reduce temperatures by 10°F for at least eight hours a day, one household in Pittsburgh can avoid creating about 15,000 pounds of heat-trapping gases over the lifetime of the thermostat.

- **How to Choose the Right Programmable Thermostat**

According to Energy Star, to decide which model is best for you, think about your schedule and how often you are away from home for regular periods of time — work, school, other activities — and then decide which of the three different models best fits your schedule: the 7-day, 5+2-day, or the 5-1-1-day.

- **7-day models** are best if your daily schedule tends to change, say, if children are at home earlier on some days. They give you the most flexibility, and let you set different programs for different days — usually with four possible temperature periods per day.
- **5+2-day models** use the same schedule every weekday, and another for weekends.
- **5-1-1 models** are best if you tend to keep one schedule Monday through Friday and another schedule on Saturdays and Sundays.

- **Track Your Progress:**

Go to our website (www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com) and fill in the tracking form so we can measure how much we're all cutting our heat-trapping gases. No computer? No problem. Call us at 412-258-6680 or fill in one of the postcards available throughout the city.