



# Make the Pittsburgh Region Even Cooler in February 2010:

Great ways to save energy at home!

This month, reduce global warming pollution by applying ENERGY STAR® computer settings and by buying ENERGY STAR® appliances or green energy.

- **Apply ENERGY STAR® settings to your computer**

ENERGY STAR® recommends that you set your computer to automatically stand-by or hibernate after 30 to 60 minutes of inactivity. You can save even more energy and money by lowering this time to 5 to 20 minutes. Each year, these settings can save you over \$75 and will prevent 923 pounds of heat-trapping gases from going into the air. ENERGY STAR® settings can be applied on all Windows and Macintosh operating systems. It's easy to do – just visit this link for detailed instructions:

- <http://www.climatesaverscomputing.org/learn/saving-energy-at-home/> - Under “Power Management Instructions” select your version of Windows or Macintosh.

- **Buy ENERGY STAR® appliances**

If you're looking to save more energy and money in your home, choose ENERGY STAR® qualified products. They're recommended by the U.S. Department of Energy and the EPA; use 10 to 50 percent less energy and water than regular appliances; and can save you an average of \$75 a year! Using ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances will prevent about 4,040 pounds of heat-trapping gases every year. Check out the ENERGY STAR® website for products – everything from televisions to dishwashers, refrigerators and ceiling fans – make sure to look for the ENERGY STAR® logo in stores:

- [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find\\_a\\_product](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product).

- **Buy green energy (and reduce peak energy use)**

### What is green energy and how can I get it?

Green energy uses materials that produce little or no global warming pollution, unlike coal and fuel oil. Wind and solar power are classic examples of green energy. The U.S. Department of Energy says that for every unit (one kilowatt-hour) of green energy that is made, one pound of carbon pollution is saved from going into the air.

Duquesne Light customers can purchase green energy by adding one of these to their regular electricity bill:

1. Community Energy, Inc. – provides green power through 100 percent wind power. Call 866-WIND-123 or visit [www.NewWind.Energy.com](http://www.NewWind.Energy.com) for more information. This green energy costs an additional \$5 per month for each 200kWh of power.
2. PPL EnergyPlus – Call 1-877-PPL-RECS or visit [www.pplrenewables.com](http://www.pplrenewables.com) to find out more. Prices start at an additional \$4 per month. Three program options are available to support the development of renewable resources at the local, regional, and national level.

3. *NativeEnergy* – provides clean wind power through its *CoolWatts*<sup>sm</sup> 100% New Wind program. Visit <http://www.nativeenergy.com/pages/coolwatts/32.php> for more information. You can buy enough wind energy to cover all your electricity use or just part, starting at \$2 per month for 200 kWh of power.

If you are interested in information on installing your own wind, solar or other green power system for a home or small business, head to [my.pennfuture.org/buygreenpower](http://my.pennfuture.org/buygreenpower) for information about all the existing programs, grants, and tax rebates at the state and federal level.

### **What is peak energy and why does it matter?**

Peak demand is defined as hours when there is the greatest need for electricity during a given period. In the summer, peak occurs during a hot afternoon when everyone has an air conditioner running. In the winter, peak can occur when homes and businesses crank up the heat to beat the winter chill. Our electric system is required to maintain very expensive and little-used peaking power plants to meet this demand. In fact, almost 20 percent of the cost to serve a residential customer annually is due to the cost of insuring adequate supply during times of peak demand.

Peak energy prices can be almost five times as expensive as non-peak prices due to a shortage of supply and increased demand. In addition, peaking power plants tend to be less efficient than those plants that run continuously. This process of bringing more power plants on to meet peak demand drives up the cost of electricity, produces additional global warming pollution, and increases prices for you.

Most electricity customers are unaware of how expensive peak power is, since electricity bills are an average of prices. However, you can still save money and help reduce global warming by reducing your energy use during peak hours. Each unit of energy (one kilowatt-hour) you save prevents 1.4 pounds of heat-trapping gases from going into the air. Here are a few ways to start reducing your energy use, especially at peak times:

- Turn off your lights in unused rooms.
- Limit your heating and cooling use, especially during peak hours.
- Unplug appliances when they're not in use – especially ones that keep using electricity even when you're not using them, like microwaves and battery chargers.
- Schedule your electricity use for the cheaper, not more expensive, times. You can start doing your laundry early in the morning, running your dishwasher late at night, and charging your electronics at night.

- **Track Your Progress**

Go to our website ([www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com](http://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.