

Member Newsletter



SEQUACHEE VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.svalleyec.com

January 2011

energy
efficiency
facts

HEATING

If you're like most Tennesseans, the cost of heating is a large portion of your wintertime utility budget (See energy dollar at the bottom of the page). Whether you are a homeowner or renter, you can reduce your energy costs without sacrificing comfort. Surprising savings can be achieved through basic energy efficiency measures, many of which have little or no cost. Other energy improvements may require a larger investment, but they typically pay for themselves in the form of energy savings within a few years — then it's money in your pocket!

No Cost

- **Turn down the thermostat.** For every degree you lower your thermostat you will save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Lowering it just one degree could save you \$14 to \$26 a year.
- **Let the sunshine in.** Open south-facing window coverings during the day to let in free heat from the sun. Close all draperies and shades at night to reduce heat loss.
- **Don't block the flow.** Move furniture and other objects away from heat registers to prevent blockage of heat.
- **Don't let heat go up the chimney.** A fireplace is a very inefficient heating

system and can account for about 14 percent of the cold air entering your home, which increases your heating costs. Make sure that the fireplace damper and glass doors are closed when the fireplace is not in use — until you close them, warm air escapes 24 hours a day.

Low Cost

- **Tune -up the heating system.** Call your heating contractor to schedule a tune-up before the heating season begins. A simple tune-up can increase a furnace's heating efficiency and reduce heating costs from 5 to 10 percent, saving \$21-\$41 per year.
- **Change the furnace filter every month.** This will help your furnace to run more efficiently, keep your air cleaner, and prolong the life of your heating and cooling system. A dirty or clogged filter will demand more energy and slow down the heating process, which can increase heating costs by 10 percent or about \$41 per year.
- **Reduce air leakage.** Drafts around windows, doors, pipes, electrical switches and outlets can account for more than 10 percent of home heating costs. One of the quickest dollar-saving

tasks you can do is caulk, seal and weatherstrip all seams, cracks and openings to the outside. Large leaks are often tucked away in unlikely spots around chimney pipe openings, recessed lights, wiring, and plumbing.

- **Install a programmable thermostat.** This is a convenience that turns your heating system on and off based on the times and temperatures that are set by you. A programmable thermostat costs under \$100, is easy to install, and can save from \$70 to \$115 a year on your home heating costs.
- **Seal the Ductwork.** Check the ductwork for disconnects, leakage, and insulation. Sealing the leaks can reduce heating costs from 10 to 20 percent. To seal, use duct mastic or UL approved duct-sealing tape (don't use what is commonly called "duct tape"). Cover and tape the ducts with duct insulation.

Investment

- **Caulk and seal before insulating.** Before adding more insulation or installing new insulation anywhere in the home, first seal all holes where air might leak. Typical insulation does not stop the flow of air, it only slows the loss of heat.
- **Insulate the attic.** If the insulation in your attic is six inches or less (R-19 or less) then your attic needs more insulation. An R-30 is recommended for our area of the country.
- **Insulate the floor over your crawl-space.** Up to 25 percent of the cost to heat your home is lost through uninsulated floors. Adding R-19 floor insulation will reduce your heating costs and keep your feet warm.

Where is your energy dollar is going?



1. 35%- Heating
2. 20 % Cooling
3. 20% Water Heating
4. 7% Laundry & Dishwasher
5. 8% Lighting & Misc.
6. 5%- Refrigerator & Freezer
7. 5% Cooking

SVEC employees cookin' for a cure

SVEC employees put their cooking skills to work in December to raise money to fight cancer.

December 9 was the date of the annual Christmas Silent Auction and "Soup"er Luncheon. The proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society (ACS) to aid in the fight against cancer and to give financial, emotional and educational support for area cancer patients.

The luncheon proceeds added to the proceeds from the silent auction of nearly 250 items and services donated by employees and local businesses resulted in nearly \$3,500 that will be a part of the SVEC Relay for Life Team's donation to the ACS in May.

The team also conducts several other fund raising projects during the year to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

They wish to thank all of those businesses and individuals who donate time,



Attendees enjoyed a variety of homemade soups, breads and desserts while bidding on a number of nice gifts and services at this year's event

gifts, services and money to make these efforts so successful.

Warm up to great service



From your friends at the company you know and trust. . .

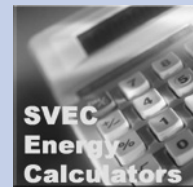


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Click on these buttons and learn how to save money

No one likes high energy bills but with the climbing cost of energy, higher bills are a fact of life. The most effective way of lowering your bill is to lower your energy use.

To do that you need to know how much electricity your appliances use and how to better manage that use.

Visit our website January -March and try out our Energy Calculators and register to have your name entered in to a drawing for a \$50 credit on your electric bill. We will draw one name per month to receive the credit. Try them out. Save money. Win a \$50 credit on your electric bill.

Service Centers

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447-2131

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South Pittsburg
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14002 Hwy 41, Tracy City
592-2511

14087 Highway 28, Whitwell
658-7832 - Mon, Wed, Fri.

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