

# **IT'S COLD** **BE SMART**

## **The Town of LaGrange Encourages Smart Energy Use This Winter**

North Carolina recently experienced a record-breaking period of extremely cold weather. In fact, this January had the longest stretch of cold weather in over 30 years, with high temperatures barely above freezing many days. The National Weather Service says a cold snap of this duration was last seen in January 1977.

Extreme, sustained cold brings high electric usage, which in turn results in higher electric bills. Your electric bill this month is probably higher than your usual bill. The higher amount is due to more energy being used in your home.

You can save money on your electric bill just by making a few small changes in the way you use energy. Please see the back of this insert for tips on smart energy use.

Use the tips below to keep your electric bill as low as possible.

- Refrain from using electric space heaters, as they can significantly increase your electric bill.
- Weatherize your home by sealing ductwork – the number one way to conserve energy. Make sure that all ductwork is sealed at joints and intersections with foil-backed tape, mastic or silicone caulk.
- Seal off fireplaces, and never use a fireplace as a heat source for your home. Even as a supplemental heat source, the cold air introduced to a warm home through an open flue isn't as efficient as sealing off a fireplace and using your central heating system.
- If you have a fossil fuel furnace, lower the thermostat at night or when away from home for several hours. If you have a heat pump, set it at the lowest comfortable setting and leave it there.
- Lower water heater to 120-125 degrees.
- Change furnace filters every month.
- Seal doors and windows with caulking or weather-stripping.
- Close draperies at night or if sitting close to a window.
- Insulate the first three to six-feet of hot water pipes near the water heater.
- Add an insulation blanket to your water heater.
- Check your attic's insulation. Add more, if needed.

*For more information on energy efficiency, visit [www.ncpublicpower.com](http://www.ncpublicpower.com). Test your home's energy efficiency with Energy Depot, our online energy audit tool.*



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