

THE LAMP

JUNE 2008



VOLUME 47 • NUMBER 6

Start the Dialogue



Fans are Cool!



Going Green

Saving

Wise Energy Investments Just Make \$ense

If you're wondering what to do with the green you're getting from the government, why not 'go green?'

There are several things you can do with either your tax refund or stimulus check that will not only help the environment, but can help you be more energy efficient and save your energy dollars.

Some steps you can take will help throughout the year, while others have seasonal benefits.

Making your home more energy efficient is often as simple as pulling a plug – unplugging appliances when they are not in use can save about \$70 a year on your electric bill.

Installing a programmable thermostat to keep air conditioning at 78° when it's hot outside and your heating system at 68° when it's cold can help save up to 20 percent in heating and cooling costs – or about \$100 a year. If every family in the United States did this, we would reduce carbon dioxide by more than 90 billion pounds.

Water heating accounts for about 13 percent of home energy costs, so turn your water heater down to 120° or the "normal" setting when home and to the lowest setting when away. Also consider wrapping your water heater in an insulated blanket – you'll save 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) last 10 times longer than regular

incandescent bulbs, use 60 percent less energy and can save 75 percent of lighting costs. If every American home replaced five incandescent bulbs with five CFL bulbs, we would save as much as \$6.5 billion a year in electricity costs and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to that from more than eight million cars.

Swapping out one incandescent light bulb with a CFL will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Other ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and help stop global warming include:

Recycling half of your home's waste will save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

Using less hot water reduces energy consumption. Installing a low-flow shower head and washing your clothes in cold or warm water can save up to 850 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Properly inflated tires improve gas mileage by 3 percent, and every gallon of gasoline saved prevents 20 pounds of carbon dioxide waste.

Planting trees reverses the effects of carbon dioxide. A single tree will absorb 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide in its lifetime. Plant trees on the east and west side of your house to keep it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. The right tree planted in the right place can reduce the sun's heat by 20 to 50 percent.

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*The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative*



Technology is Key in Keeping the Lights On

Right now, there are a lot of “what-ifs” surrounding electric power. As a nation, we need to add more generating resources to meet growing electric consumption.

As your provider of safe, affordable, and reliable power, it’s our job to make prudent, long-term energy decisions that will benefit you and the communities we serve for decades to come. But today those decisions are mixed up with politics like never before. Every question of supplying power is being impacted by the debate surrounding how best to meet climate change goals. Policy limiting carbon dioxide emissions is becoming more likely, although specifics are still up in the air.

Massive investments in new technology will be required –and soon – to find a balance in meeting both our energy and climate change goals. The Electric Power Research Institute estimates it will take a research investment of \$1.4 billion a year from now until 2030 to develop new technology such as carbon capture and storage for our power plants.

Once we add this advanced technology to the equation, we can develop

power plants that burn coal and isolate carbon dioxide emissions. The gas can then be compressed and pumped for permanent storage deep underground. Many experts believe that with the right financial commitment from the federal government, cost-effective carbon capture and storage technology could become commercially available around 2020.

But this is just one potential piece of the puzzle, and until our elected officials

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager agree to increase the necessary funding, uncertainty remains.

At Indian Electric, we are dedicated to keeping you supplied with reliable and affordable electricity. We are, with electric cooperatives across the country, engaged in a grassroots campaign called “Our Energy, Our Future” to start a dialogue with lawmakers about critical questions such as technology’s role in our energy future.

Start the Dialogue

Indian Electric Cooperative has joined the nationwide co-op campaign to make Congressional delegates and other elected officials aware of how certain issues could impact rural consumers. While climate change legislation and renewable energy research are important topics that deserve attention, electric co-ops want to be sure legislative decisions surrounding these issues will not increase rates for co-op members. Your help is needed.

Please visit ourenergy.coop to start the dialogue with your elected officials. Be sure to ask your elected

officials these questions:

- **What is your plan to make sure we have enough electricity in the future?**
- **What are you doing to fund the research to make emission-free electric plants affordable?**
- **How much is this going to increase my electric bill, and what will you do to make sure it is affordable?**

THE LAMP

INDIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)

(918) 358-2514

www.iecok.com

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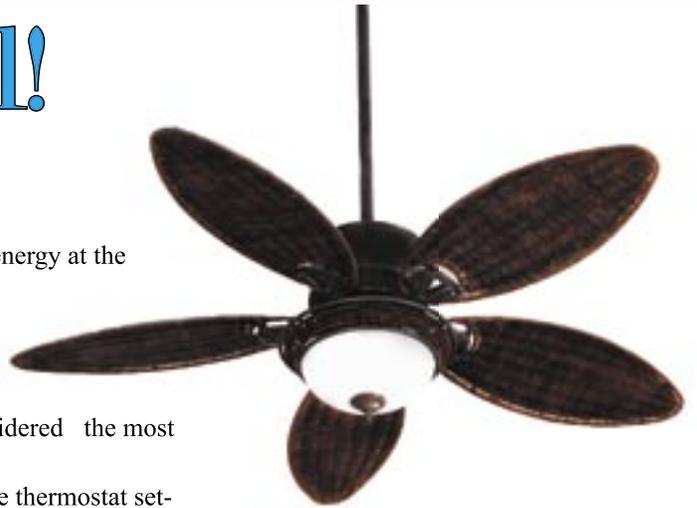
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Fans are Cool!

Stay Cool and Save Energy When You Use Your Ceiling Fans



Stirring the air in your home can keep you comfortable and save energy at the same time.

Circulating fans include ceiling fans, table fans, floor fans, and fans mounted to poles or walls. These devices create a wind chill effect that will make you more comfortable in your home, even if it's cooled by natural ventilation or air conditioning. Ceiling fans are considered the most effective of these fans.

If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4° Fahrenheit with no reduction in comfort. In temperate climates, or during moderately hot weather, ceiling fans may allow you to avoid using your air conditioner altogether. Install a fan in each room that needs to be cooled during hot weather.

Ceiling fans are only appropriate in rooms with ceilings at least eight feet high. Fans work best when the blades are seven to nine feet above the floor and 10 to 12 inches below the ceiling. Fans should be installed so the blades are no closer than eight inches from the ceiling and 18 inches from the walls.

Larger ceiling fans can move more air than smaller fans. A 36- or 44-inch diameter fan will cool rooms up to 225 square feet, while fans that are 52 inches or more should be used in larger rooms. Multiple fans work best in rooms longer than 18 feet. Small- and medium-sized fans will provide efficient cooling in a four- to six-foot diameter area, while larger fans are effective up to 10 feet.

A larger blade will also provide comparable cooling at a lower velocity than a smaller blade. This may be important in areas where loose papers or other objects will be disturbed by a strong breeze. The fan should also be fitted to the aesthetics of the room—a large fan may appear overpowering in a small room.

A more expensive fan that operates quietly and smoothly will probably offer more trouble-free service than cheaper units. Check the noise ratings, and, if possible, listen to the fan in operation before you buy it.

When buying window fans, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. Fans that earn the label move air 20-percent more efficiently, on average, than standard models.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

A combination of proper insulation, energy-efficient windows and doors, shading, and ventilation will usually keep homes cool with a lower amount of energy use in all but the hottest climates.

Source: U.S. Dept of Energy

**IEC offices
will be closed
Friday, July 4
in honor of
Independence
Day.**

**Please call
(918) 358-2514
or 1-800-482-
2750 to report
an outage.**

Protect Your Older Home from Electrical Hazards

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), half of all homes in the United States were built before the advent of automatic coffee makers or garage door openers, and one-third were built before hair dryers or electric can openers. Add to that computers, cell phones, and other electrical devices, and you have a great many residences with potential electric wiring problems.

Research from ESFI shows that faulty or overloaded wiring accounts for an estimated 67,800 fires, 500 deaths, and more than 2,000 injuries each year, and a whopping \$868 million in property damage. By educating yourself about common hazards in older homes and installing lifesaving electrical safety devices, these risks can be reduced greatly.

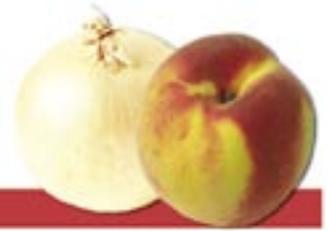
The lifesaving technology available includes:

- AFCIs – an outlet that recognizes fire hazards and immediately shuts off power.
- GFCIs – an outlet that senses when water comes into contact and cuts out to prevent electrocution.
- Tamper-Resistant Outlets – designed to protect children from inserting small objects into them.

In addition to installing the technology above, here are some additional safety tips:

- Make sure functioning smoke alarms are installed on every floor and in every sleeping area.
- Look for telltale signs of electrical problems such as dimming lights, frequent circuit breaker trips, or blown fuses.
- Limit use of extension cords, particularly cords used to power room air conditioners.
- Use light bulbs that are the proper wattage for a fixture; higher wattage bulbs can degrade wires.

RECIPE



Grilled Vidalia Onion and Peach Salad

Salad

- 1 cup baby leaf lettuce
- 1 Vidalia Onion, sliced into 1/2 inch rings
- 1 peach, sliced in half
- 1/4 cup goat cheese, crumbled

Dressing

- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 Tbsp. white wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Prepare grill (medium-high heat). Brush sliced Vidalia onions with olive oil, season with salt and pepper. Grill onion slices and peach until tender, about 4 minutes per side. Thinly slice peaches.

For the dressing, simply whisk together all ingredients in a bowl.

In another large bowl, toss together the salad, freshly grilled sliced peaches and Vidalia onions. Drizzle with dressing and sprinkle goat cheese on top. Serve immediately.

An illustration of a family of four (mother, father, young girl, and young boy) standing in front of a two-story house. The mother is holding the young girl, and the father is standing behind the young boy. The scene is set outdoors with a clear sky and some greenery.

Making your home more energy efficient is not only good for the environment – it's good for your bank balance.

ABC News reports that the average family spends nearly \$2,000 a year on energy bills, and simply heating and cooling their homes accounts for half of that bill. Sealing your home's "envelope" – ensuring that walls, floors, ceiling and the roof are well insulated – can save up to 10 percent on your annual energy bill and cut down on carbon dioxide emissions.