



Gerald Linnear

ELECTRICITY SAVINGS TIPS THAT WORK

BY GERALD LINNEAR

Deregulation:

In the great hot state of Texas, we have a choice. Since January 1, 2002, Senate Bill 7 changed how the electricity energy industry operated. The deregulation of electricity began the separation of the industry into three parts.

1. The production of electricity at power plants. Generation
2. Transmission and Distribution Service Providers (TDSP)
3. The Retail Electric Providers

Now we can choose from many different energy companies as our Retail Electric Providers (REP). REPs are certified to do business by the Public Utility Commission of Texas and have a PUC number. REPs purchase energy from generation sources and then sell the energy directly to you.

Savings:

The first step in saving is to regulate your electricity usage.

Turn off the lights when they are not in use.

Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) in

place of incandescent lights.

Use motion sensors, or occupancy sensors to automatically turn on or off lights.

Next, make sure you have adequate air sealing and insulation.

Check to find air leaks around the windows, doors, and along baseboards.

Plug leaks with caulk, or weather stripping.

If possible replace old windows with energy efficient storm windows.

Make sure all exterior walls, ceilings, and attic spaces are adequately insulated.

You can even insulate your garage (builders don't normally insulate).

Have your heating and cooling system maintained professionally each year.

Regulate your room temperature by keeping the thermostat set at 78 degrees.

Or install a programmable thermostat to fit your schedule.

Ceiling fans make the room cooler when you're there. Turn them off when you're not.

Try to upgrade your appliances that are not

energy efficient to modern appliances.

Freezers and refrigerators work too hard in the garage. Bring them inside.

Choice:

Finally, the most important thing to do is to check the rate you are paying for your electricity. All of the companies' basic function is the same, so why pay a higher rate for the same electricity. There are many choices out there. Do your homework. Some companies say they have the best rate, but don't just take their word for it. They must provide you with an electricity fact label, so you can see for yourself. Remember, who ever you choose it is still going to be the same service that you have always been getting, because your Retail Electric Provider only sells you electricity. They don't distribute electricity.

Beat the Heat Rate 13.5 per kilowatts

Hopefully these are some tips you will use.

Gerald Linnear

Director rep id: gelin