

Celebrate Energy Awareness Month this October

With winter just around the corner, Energy Awareness Month is a good time to learn more about how you use energy and how to make energy-efficient choices every day.

Here are just a few ideas to help get you started.

- Insulate and air seal to help keep heat inside the house.
- Turn out lights and shut off computers and TVs when not in use.
- Switch to ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs).

- Purchase ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and electronics.



- Invest a few dollars in our renewable energy program every month.

Every little bit counts. And, if we all do just a few simple things every day to use less energy in our own lives, it can add up to big savings for our community and our world.

Parts of a whole

If you've got your eye on a super-efficient heating system or weather-resistant new windows, it's a good idea to get your house ready for them before you buy.

Even the most efficient equipment won't save energy if you install it in a house with bad ducts, air leaks in the attic or faulty insulation.

In other words, an energy-efficient furnace can't solve your high energy bills on its own.

Combine the purchase with an inspection of your home's air ducts, windows, walls, insulation and attic, and upgrade those areas at the same time.

Public power lights up the community

Did you know that your electric utility is a not-for-profit business that was formed by the community to serve the community? It's one of more than 2,000 electric utilities across the nation that are known as "public power utilities." They're locally owned and operated by the people they serve.

Public power utilities are unique because they don't have to give profits to investors. Instead, their goal is to serve the community by keeping the money local and making payments to the city government.

As its name suggests, public power works in the public interest to 'turn on' communities.

Their not-for-profit status holds down electricity rates, which are often times lower than those of neighboring investor-owned utilities and co-ops.

While low rates are great for families, they're also good for businesses. Low electricity costs attract and keep businesses in the community, which is good for everyone.



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A simple improvement you can see

Lighting accounts for about 20% of annual household electricity bills, or approximately \$200 per year. Switching from standard light bulbs to ENERGY STAR® qualified CFLs is an affordable step you can take to lower your utility bills. CFLs are available in a range of sizes and shapes to fit almost any fixture in your home. They provide high-quality light, use less energy and last longer than standard incandescent bulbs. Make the switch today and save!

This fall, in partnership with Focus on Energy, select ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs will be on sale at participating retailers, while supplies last. Visit focusonenergy.com to find a retailer near you.

Offset your usage with renewable energy

Did you know that 2.8 tons of CO₂ avoided by purchasing one block of renewable energy (300 kWh) every month for one year would be equivalent to:

- The emissions from burning 1.6 tons of coal
- The emissions from driving your car for six months
- The amount of CO₂ absorbed by 0.6 acre of forest

The average home in our region uses approximately 8,800 kWh each year (2009 U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration data). Purchasing 2 – 3 blocks of renewable energy each month would offset an average homeowner's usage for a year.

To learn more about our Renewable Energy Program, contact us at 882-2280 or visit www.ci.evansville.wi.gov.

Calculate your home energy savings

Understanding how to save energy at home just got easier.

For Evansville residents who have ever wondered just how much energy could be saved through measures such as adjusting the thermostat or adding storm windows, answers are now just a few mouse clicks away. Our HomeEnergySuite is available at www.wppienergy.org/homeenergy. The online resource provides customers with 24/7 access to the energy answers they seek and provides one-stop-shopping for the residential customer's energy information needs.

The HomeEnergySuite gives customers the opportunity to conduct a self analysis on their home and review scenarios that will help them save energy and money. The online calculator asks users questions about their home and provides an estimate of the home's monthly and annual energy use.

Website visitors can use the calculator to consider making a change, like reducing their home's water heater temperature, and learn ways to save energy. Other changes include adjusting heating settings down or cooling settings up; reducing air leaks in the home; adding insulation; installing storm windows; or changing out a heating system.

The HomeEnergySuite also provides a big-picture look at overall home energy usage. Clicking the "Chart" button provides a pie chart with the percentage break-down of total annual energy use by appliance or system type. Other features of this online tool include a library of energy information, energy savings tips, and the option to receive an e-mail report including next steps for taking action to save energy in the home.

Check it out at www.wppienergy.org/homeenergy.