



## Tips to Reduce Summer Heating Costs and Save You Money

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, 49 percent of the average home's electric bill is spent on heating and cooling, and with summer just around the corner, Arkansans can expect an increase in their electric bills. To help offset the anticipated increase, Progress Arkansas has compiled the following list of low-cost, easy steps that you can take to increase the energy efficiency of your home and save money.

- Position lamps and televisions away from your thermostat.
- Install a programmable thermostat to have the air conditioning set higher when you are away from home.
- Avoid running heat-producing appliances (e.g. ovens, clothes dryers) during the hottest times of day if you can avoid it.
- Seal and weather-strip doors and windows to ensure your home retains as much cool air as possible and blocks warm air from entering.
- Use moveable blinds, window shading film or awnings on windows that receive excessive sun in the late afternoon.
- Use fans with your air conditioning to move cool air throughout your home.
- Keep air conditioner filters clean. Aluminum mesh filters should be washed and fiberglass filters should be replaced monthly.
- Use kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans to remove excess heat and humidity caused by cooking, laundering and bathing.
- Set your thermostat to 78 or the highest comfortable temperature. Each degree cooler than 78 will increase your bill as much as 3 percent. If you're going to be away for an extended period, set your air conditioner to 80 degrees or higher.
- Leave storm windows and doors closed when the air conditioner is on.