



## TIDINGS

### in this issue

Keep Warm and Save

*Tidings* Tips: Easy Resolutions

# ENERGY MYTH

## ENERGY MYTH #1:

Using heat strips costs the same as using your heat pump.

If you have a heat pump, cranking your thermostat up more than two degrees at a time will warm your home faster, BUT will cost you more money. WHY? You activate the costly heat strips, so you are turning on a second, more expensive source of heat (read why on page 2). Be warm, but be smart.



BEACHES | ENERGY  
SERVICES

*Ride the Green Wave*

## Winter Thermostat Wisdom

What's the simplest tool for keeping heating bills low? Your thermostat.

- Set the thermostat at 68° when you're home: every degree above 68 can add approximately 4% to your utility bill.
- Lower it to 65° while sleeping (with blankets!).
- Lower it to 65° if you'll be away four or more hours.

**Understand Heat Pump "Heat Strips."** If you have a heat pump, you're using an energy-efficient system that works well in Florida. But a heat pump's "Emergency Heat" or "Auxiliary Heat" feature can increase cost if you don't understand it. It's back-up heat: expensive electric strips that activate when the outside air stays very cold, or when you raise the thermostat setting too quickly. Raise the setting just two degrees at a time to avoid using auxiliary heat.

**Let a Programmable Thermostat Do the Work.** With a programmable thermostat, you can establish settings for your daily schedule. The thermostat changes automatically, so you don't have to remember. A programmable thermostat pays for itself by saving approximately \$180 yearly. With a Beaches Energy Services rebate of \$25, a programmable thermostat is a super bargain. Visit [www.beachesenergy.com](http://www.beachesenergy.com) for full rebate details, or call 904-247-6241.



### Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	January	February
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$73.57	\$73.57
Power cost adjustment	\$59.84	\$59.84
Total	\$137.91	\$137.91

## More Rebates to Help You Save!

The State of Florida recently implemented an Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program in an effort to increase energy efficiency and stimulate the economy. The program will run for the week of April 16–25, 2010, so if you're interested in purchasing Energy Star appliances, mark your calendar! It's another great way to help you save, with six residential appliances qualifying:

1. Refrigerators
2. Freezers
3. Washing machines
4. Dish Washers
5. Room air conditioners
6. Gas tankless water heaters



Visit [www.beachesenergy.com](http://www.beachesenergy.com) and click on "Florida Energy Star Rebates" for more information!

## Tidings Tips: Resolve to Save

**A New Year's Resolution to save money is on most people's lists.** A great thing about spending less on energy is that you also help the environment: two resolutions for one! Make these free, simple tips into year-long habits.

- Set the thermostat to 68° or lower during winter months.
- Change HVAC filters regularly.
- Turn off lights and electronics when you're not using them. Unplug electronics, TVs, and cable boxes overnight or when away (use a power strip, and switch it off).
- Wash clothes in cold water (full loads), air-dry when possible, and use the dryer's auto setting.
- Set the water heater at 125°. Turn it off at the breaker during trips.
- Use the microwave, toaster oven, and crock pot.
- Don't prewash dishes for the dishwasher, run it when full, and set it to "air dry."