



# TIDINGS

## in this issue

Hurricane Evacuation  
Registration

Are New Windows Worth It?

TidingsTips: Staying in Hot Water



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*Ride the Green Wave*

## Savings by the Numbers

When thinking about raising your thermostat when heating, remember this “school” of thought. To save money and energy, the best setting is **68°** or lower. Keep your sweater on, because every degree higher can increase your bill by 4%. When leaving home or at bedtime, lower the setting **3°–5°**. If you have a heat pump, return the temperature to **68°** just **2°** at a time. Otherwise, you activate expensive heat strips. Here’s a very smart move: Receive a **\$25** rebate from Beaches Energy Services for a new programmable thermostat. It gets the numbers right automatically—and pays for its purchase within the first year!



## Tidings Tips: Water Heating and Heaters

For a conventional tank-storage water heater, use these tips to save:

- Change incandescent bulbs to CFLs or LEDs.
- Set the heater's thermostat no higher than 120°.
- Turn off the water heater at the circuit box when away for two or more days.
- Run full loads in the dishwasher. Use cold water for laundry.



If buying a new water heater, consider these options, explained in detail at [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) and [energysavers.gov](http://energysavers.gov):

- A heat-pump water heater saves the average family about \$300 per year. A federal tax credit is available through 2013.
- A solar water heater may cut bills in half. Beaches Energy Services offers a \$500 rebate for a solar water system. Find out at [beachesenergy.com](http://beachesenergy.com) or 904-247-6241. A federal tax credit is also available through 2016.



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

	January	February
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$74.57	\$74.57
Power cost adjustment	\$50.84	\$50.84
Total	\$129.91	\$129.91

## Clear Answers about Replacing Windows

New energy-saving windows and skylights definitely lower utility bills. They are also eligible for a federal tax credit. Still, replacing standard windows can be expensive: keep in mind your return on investment could be over 20 years.



**If your windows are not damaged or fogged**, save energy through simple, low-cost steps like caulking, using drapes and blinds and adding window solar film or solar screens (both are eligible for Beaches Energy Services rebates).

**If you need new windows or are building a home**, high-efficiency windows,

especially Energy Star, are a wise move. They can save up to 15% in energy costs. The tax credit helps too: you can deduct it from any federal income tax you owe. New windows look good, improve inside temperature and reduce sun damage to furnishings. If you can't afford whole-house replacement, start with east- and west-facing windows that receive most sun.

## Hurricane Registration for Special Needs Customers



If you have a disability or special needs, or care for someone who does, you must register every year with the county before hurricane season. Now is the time. Special needs include (1) electricity for medical equipment, (2) regular medical observation or help with medications, and (3) transportation to a shelter, even if healthy. Obtain a registration form at our offices in City Hall, or contact:

- **Duval County:** Emergency Preparedness, 904-630-2472, [www.coj.net](http://www.coj.net)
- **St. Johns County:** Emergency Management, 904-824-5550, [www.sjcemergencymanagement.org](http://www.sjcemergencymanagement.org)