



## TIDINGS

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SERVICES

*Ride the Green Wave*

### Green Home, Sunny Savings

In a nut (or turtle) shell, what is a green home? It is built—or improved—to use less energy and natural resources and to cause less pollution. Energy efficiency is key, because most electricity comes from burning fossil fuels that emit greenhouse gases. Florida's abundant sunlight is a great alternative for heating water and generating electricity. Beaches Energy Services offers a rebate of up to \$500 for a solar water heater. Federal tax credits for solar systems equal 30% of the cost. These incentives increase your utility savings. Good for you, good for the planet: That's green.





## Saving Energy Is Kid Stuff

*Tidings* readers are well informed about energy conservation. But what about your kids and grandkids? How do you teach—and reach—they?

**Keep it simple.** First, set out the basics: using less electricity saves money and helps the planet. Explain that electricity comes from burning fuel, and that you pay for running the refrigerator, lights, TV, and AC. Let your children know how little changes can make a big difference.

### Try this family pledge:

1. Turn it off. (Lights, television, computers, fans, etc.)
2. Keep it closed. (Doors, windows, refrigerator door.)
3. Be cool or warm—not cold or hot. (Thermostat at 78° in summer, 68° in winter.)

**Make it fun.** Three great web sites for energy games, videos, education, and printouts are [energyhog.org](http://energyhog.org), [eia.doe.gov/kids](http://eia.doe.gov/kids), and [eere.energy.gov/kids](http://eere.energy.gov/kids). Also, let kids help with projects like installing CFLs—or explain why you're doing it. Play "I Spy" through the house to find energy savings or waste. Have a "no electricity" time, and enjoy the outdoors!

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

|                          | May      | June     |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| 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 |

## Resources for Green Home Building and Improvements

**Today, buying a certified green home is more and more common.** Even if you're not in the market for a new home, you can green your house by improving these basic areas of green building.

- Home envelope: insulation, sealing, roof
- Heating and cooling equipment (including ductwork) and water heater
- Lighting and light fixtures
- Appliances: refrigerator, dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer

**Online, you can learn all about the elements of green building and find green contractors where you live.**

According to Energy Star, monthly energy savings of green homes exceed any additional mortgage cost for efficient systems.

- [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) (click New Homes)
- [eere.energy.gov/buildings/challenge](http://eere.energy.gov/buildings/challenge)
- [epa.gov/greenhomes](http://epa.gov/greenhomes)

**Rebates from Beaches Energy Services give you green (up to \$1,675) for energy-efficiency improvements in existing homes.** Our rebates cover many green-home elements. Visit [beachesenergy.com](http://beachesenergy.com) or call us at 904-247-6241.

## Tidings Tips: Summer Projects

Warm weather is the time for energy-saving outside projects and ones that will keep you cooler inside.

- Install awnings and solar window screens or film.
- Hose the coils of the HVAC condenser.



- Change incandescent outdoor lighting to fluorescent; use solar lights for walkways and ambience.
- Weatherstrip, seal, and caulk air leaks.
- Install ceiling fans in high-use rooms.