



TIDINGS

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BEACHES | ENERGY
SERVICES

Ride the Green Wave

How Snug Is Your Shell?

A hermit crab picks its home carefully. When the shell gets uncomfortable . . . on to a new one. But for our homes, leaving a house with problems—like air leaks— isn't practical. Simple home-sealing is. Air leaks can make cooling and heating your home more expensive. Conditioned air should stay inside, not escape through cracks and openings. Caulking, weatherstripping, duct repair, and insulation are energy-efficient steps to lower your utility bill year-round. Check out tips in this issue—including rebates to help with costs.



Tidings Tips: Rebates for a Snug House

Beaches Energy Services offers rebates that help with sealing and insulating of existing homes. For details, call 904-247-6241 or visit beachesenergy.com, where you can download an application.

- **Window film and solar screen, up to \$100:** Deflect heat away from windows to save during summer months.
- **Duct repair or replacement, up to \$150:** Seal leaks or replace ductwork to improve the efficiency of your heating/cooling system.
- **Attic or floor insulation upgrade, up to \$300:** Improve the R-rating of insulation above and below air-conditioned space.

Hurricane Season Is Here

Being prepared is a giant step for your family and pets. Check your lists of supplies, tools, and documents you should safeguard. Find out in advance your evacuation routes, shelter locations (pet-friendly too), and re-entry procedures. Go to www.beachesenergy.com for quick, comprehensive hurricane information, or call us at 247-6241.



Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	August	September
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$74.57	\$75.57
Power cost adjustment	\$50.84	\$47.84
Total	\$129.91	\$127.91

Tighten Your House with Three-Pronged Approach



In spring and fall, opening windows is a cost-free way to keep your home comfortable. When the air conditioner or heater is running, are your closed windows and doors really tight? Is leaking ductwork in your attic letting conditioned air escape? These leaks are leaking money out of your wallet. Fixes are inexpensive. A properly sealed home is also less humid and more comfortable.

1: Assess Your House with Our Help. You may feel larger drafts under doors and around windows, but a thorough house exam will yield more (think of dryer vents and cable-line entries). A Beaches Energy Services **in-home audit** is free to residential customers. Also free at beachesenergy.com is the online **Energy Depot**, offering a do-it-yourself audit and a library packed with information. Find simple methods to pressure-check your house by searching “detecting air leaks” at energysavers.gov. A professional can also conduct a “blower door and duct blaster” test, to determine the tightness of your home and ductwork.

2: Seal the Leaks. Caulking, weatherstripping, and duct-sealing are solutions that usually pay for themselves in one year. The right types and techniques are essential. Duct tape, for example, is *not* good for sealing ducts! The online resources above provide detailed information for caulking (fixed openings), weatherstripping (movable openings like doors), and ductwork.

3: Insulate. Insulation provides resistance to heat flow, measured as an “R-value.” Even when leaks are closed, heat naturally flows to cooler spaces. Walls, windows, floors, ceilings, garages, crawl spaces: Anywhere your home meets outside air is an avenue for heat exchange. Most older homes benefit from added insulation or R-value upgrade. Find out what you need with an energy audit. Insulating and home sealing are great values.

Free E-Check Payment Option

Now, 24 hours a day, you can pay your utility bill at no cost to you, through our website or automated phone system. Our newest payment option allows you to make a one-time payment from your bank checking account.

Get started today. Log in to www.beachesenergy.com and register with your customer-location number. Or use our automated phone system at 247-6241. Both options are a safe and convenient way to make a payment.