

TIDINGS

in this issue

October: Celebrate Fall with Energy Savings

Watt Do You Know!

Tidings Tips: For Trick-or-Treating (and More)





BEACHES ENERGY S E R V I C E S Ride the Green Wave

Is Your TV Leaking?

Energy, that is. It's a surprising fact: Most electronics and many appliances use energy for standby power when they're plugged in—even though turned off. This wasted energy is called phantom load and ghost energy. But it's not always invisible. A glowing light on a device (DVD player, modem) means, "I'm still on." That's also true of any electronics with a remote or a power-pack plug, chargers for cell phones, and appliances with lighted dials. For easy steps to reduce phantom load and ghost energy, turn the page.

October Is National Energy Awareness Month



National Energy Awareness Month and fall festivals can both be celebrated in October. What a great month to put an end to phantom power use and celebrate savings all year long. Energy awareness can become second-nature, applied throughout our lives. This special month highlights many efforts, such as fuel economy standards, creating clean energy technology and jobs, and cutting pollution. Individuals do their part through conservation steps—like those in *Tidings* every month.

Awareness of phantom energy (the standby power consumed when electronic devices are turned off but still plugged in) can make a big impact in our nation. Some 10% of home energy use is standby power. Save that energy with these solutions.

• Use a power strip/surge suppressor to unplug. Don't run entertainment electronics, computers, and peripherals (printer, modem, router, fax) 24/7. Turn off computers and office equipment that will be idle for two hours. For longer periods, unplug. Make it easy by putting devices on a surge suppressor strip. Flipping one switch unplugs everything, but the

suppressor still functions.

• Use your computer's power-management features. Set your system software to activate sleep mode for the monitor and processor. Energy use drops



substantially. A screensaver does not save energy.

- **Buy Energy Star brands.** Some Energy Star-certified office equipment saves up to 90% on energy costs. Energy Star computers can use 70% less energy, with a sleep mode of about 4 watts.
- **Unplug battery chargers when not in use.** Chargers draw energy even when the battery is removed.

What's a Watt?

Your utility bill measures your electricity usage in kilowatthours, but what does that mean? A watt is a standard unit of power. A kilowatt equals 1,000 watts. One kilowatt-hour

(kWh) represents one kilowatt of power expended for one hour of time. For example, a hair dryer rated at 1,000 watts, operating for an hour, consumes one kWh of electricity.





Tidings Tips: Savings to Scream About

The fall season means more than bobbing for apples and picking out a perfect pumpkin. It means conserving energy, lowering pollution, saving money, and keeping the planet green. Fall festivities can be both energy-efficient and fun.

 LED lights and strings come in Halloween colors and themes. They last much longer than incandescents, cost 80% less to use, and are safer because they're cooler. Solar holiday lights use no electricity.



- No-battery, shakable flashlights are a brilliant idea for trick-or-treating.
- At parties, minimal lighting sets the mood. If weather is cold, set the thermostat below 68°, because lots of bodies generate more heat. From plates to decorations to favors, use items that can be reused or recycled.
- Rather than buy synthetic costumes, make creative ones with old clothes and home supplies (foil, cardboard, lampshades—use your imagination!).



Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	September	October
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$75.57	\$75.57
Power cost adjustment	\$47.84	\$47.84
Total	\$127.91	\$127.91