



TIDINGS

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Beaches Energy Services applauds artists living and working in our unique community. In 2012, each issue of *Tidings* will feature an artwork chosen for its ability to depict "The Art of Conservation" and our quality of life here at the beaches. May's featured work is an oil painting on canvas, entitled "Mass Transportation, Beaches Style" by local artist Ellen Jones. To view more of her work, visit www.Joypeace3art.com. Read more about the entire Collection by visiting www.beachesenergy.com.



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BEACHES | ENERGY
SERVICES

Ride the Green Wave

Practicing the Fine Art of Customer Service.

Every day, our customer service specialists are standing by for your calls. *Living daily with an appreciation of our unique environment is an art.* Because problems need immediate responses, we make available a number of ways you can contact Beaches Energy Services for a solution. By offering features like free residential energy audits, a surge protection program and e-bill payment, we continue to provide customer service above and beyond the expected.

Outages, Interruptions and You

Maintaining a reliable system is our highest priority. Our equipment inspection, maintenance and state-of-the-art technology help identify problems before they happen. Our employees are dedicated to maintaining constant electric service you can rely on.

Should you ever need to report an outage or trouble with your utility service, Beaches Energy Services provides all customers with a **24-hour emergency line at 904-247-6171**.



Residential Energy Audits are Free

Increasing energy efficiency is good for everyone. All residential customers are eligible to receive a free home energy audit from Beaches Energy Services. At your convenience, a trained Energy Analyst will evaluate your habits, inspect your equipment and make energy-saving recommendations to reduce your energy bill. This audit process helps you better understand and manage your energy use and costs. Call **904-247-6241** to schedule your free Energy Audit – and start saving now!



What Our Customers Tell Us

“ We have been very pleased with the customer services of Beaches Energy. We recently upgraded our AC/heat pumps and qualified for their rebate program for energy efficient home improvements. They applied the credit to our monthly bill. Subsequently, the conservation specialist, conducted an energy audit, at no charge, and made recommendations for significant improvements in energy efficiency. It was very helpful to review the cost of operation of our individual appliance and heating/cooling system. We would highly recommend this service. We are indeed fortunate to have a utility company as customer friendly as Beaches Energy Services.”

Edward K. Paul, Jr.

Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	April	May
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$75.57	\$75.57
Power cost adjustment	\$47.84	\$46.84
Total	\$127.91	\$126.91

Tidings Tips: Smart Ways to Stay Cool

As temperatures increase during the summer months, use the following Tidings Tips to stay cool and save energy in your home at the same time:

- In summer, keep drapes, shades, and blinds closed on windows facing south or west during the hottest time of the day.
- When using a higher thermostat setting, use ceiling fans to increase your level of comfort. Use fans in occupied rooms only; fans cool people, not rooms.
- Plant shade trees strategically around your home. Properly selected and planted shade trees can reduce heating and cooling costs.
- Make sure the attic is properly insulated and ventilated. Beaches Energy Services recommends upgrading your insulation to an R-value between R30 and R38.
- Set your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher during the summer months. Your energy bill can increase up to eight percent for each degree lower than 78.



Time to Prepare a Family Disaster Plan

Hurricane season is approaching fast as well as the strong thunderstorms of summer. It is very important to discuss the type of hazards that can affect your family, and to know your home's vulnerability when it comes to storm surge, flooding and wind. Here are some steps to take to prepare your family:

- Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In some circumstances, the safest areas may not be your home, but a shelter in your community.
- Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet your family.
- Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so every family member has a single point of contact.
- Prepare a plan for what to do if you must evacuate.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Check your insurance coverage – flood damage is not usually covered by standard homeowner's insurance.
- Use a battery operated NOAA weather radio. Remember to change the batteries every year, at the beginning of summer.
- Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes if you get the chance.
- Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a **Disaster Supply Kit**.

You can download a printable copy of recommendations for stocking your family's **Disaster Supply Kit** at beachesenergy.com/disaster-kit/.

