



TIDINGS in this issue

Tidings Tips: Save Energy With
Smart Gadgets

Fall Is The Perfect Time To Seal
Your Home

Stay Safe This Halloween



Photo is from the collection of the Beaches Museum & History Park.



BEACHES | ENERGY
SERVICES

Ride the Green Wave

Conservation is the Bridge to Energy Savings.

Our customers are the reason we are here. Beaches Energy Services makes every effort to provide uninterrupted electricity, and to provide information about smart conservation measures, residential energy audits, tips and rebates that will help you save on your monthly utility bill. October is National Energy Awareness Month and is a great time to discover ways to manage your energy use and start saving money.

Tidings Tips: Energy Saving Gadgets to Consider

Fall into October with energy awareness, a perfect time to consider how we can reduce energy consumption around our homes. Here are a few that offer truly smart savings, making the investment worthwhile.



Smart Thermostat – Your HVAC makes up 50% of your home's energy consumption. Proper thermostat settings offer your largest savings in energy and money. A high-tech device such as a smart or programmable thermostat automatically adjust, saving you money.

Smart Power Strips and Sockets – These devices are smart because they cut phantom power from anything plugged into them. Power strips are ideal for outlets that are hard to reach. Smart sockets plug into standard outlets and cut power to devices that are in standby mode. Most of these devices are well worth the initial investment, recovering the cost by saving energy in a short time.

Household Energy Management Systems – These devices allow homeowners to control the entire home via remote control. Lighting, heating and air, appliances, stereo, and security systems can all be controlled from your dedicated remote or smart phone. Quite a range of these home systems is on the market for a variety of household budgets. There are also single lamps, switches and devices that can be remote or smart phone controlled if an entire system isn't feasible.

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween

Before you head out to trick or treat or to holiday parties, review these safety guidelines to keep your holiday full of fun.

Safety in numbers – Trick-or-treaters should walk in groups, with a trusted adult. Teenagers should have a working cell phone and a reasonable curfew to return home.

Stay in the light – Homes leave porch lights on to welcome trick-or-treaters, so avoid darkened houses or hallways and NEVER enter strange houses or cars! Use a flashlight to see and let others see you.

Fit the costume right – Make sure that masks fit correctly and kids can see through them, and that costumes fit well so they don't trip anyone up.

Say NO to candles – Use battery operated candles or a glow stick for your jack-o'-lantern.

Check your treats – Before eating, examine all treats collected for choking hazards, and tampering.



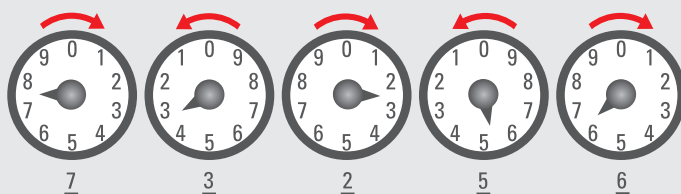
Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	September	October
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$76.57	\$76.57
Power cost adjustment	\$42.84	\$42.84
Total	\$123.91	\$123.91

Reading Your Electric Meter

Beaches Energy Services uses two types of meters to measure energy use in kilowatt-hours, and both are easy to read. A cyclometer shows the five-digit reading like a car's odometer—very simply. A dial meter has five dials, each yielding one digit. As shown in the diagram, the reading is **73256**. Note that the dials rotate in different directions, shown by the red arrows and the number sequence. When the pointer is between digits, write down the lower number. When the pointer is moving from 9 to 0, the 0 represents 10. To calculate your kilowatt-hour consumption for a certain period (a weekend, a month, etc.):

- 1) take a reading
- 2) take a second reading at the end of the period
- 3) deduct the first from the second



Prepare for Seasonal Changes

During mild fall weather, opening windows is a cost free way to stay comfortable, but if windows and doors don't close snugly, heated or cooled air escapes, costing you money. Beaches Energy Services offers free in-home audits to residential customers that can help identify leaks so the situation can be fixed. Caulking, weather-stripping and duct sealing are solutions that usually pay for themselves in one year. Insulation provides resistance to heat flow, measured as an "R-value." Most older homes benefit from added insulation or R-value upgrade. Insulating and home sealing are great values, and you can find out what you need during your in-home energy audit. Visit www.beachesenergy.com for rebate information on insulation upgrades that meet certain specifications.

SCAM ALERT!

Utility customers nationwide have reported receiving unsolicited phone calls regarding past due bills and disconnection of service. The caller demands immediate payment through a pre-paid debit card. **Tips to follow: Do not make any payment to anonymous callers** and try to get the caller's name, phone number and any other related information. Contact Beaches Energy Services emergency phone number **904-247-6171**, and **report SCAM phone calls** to the police at **904-270-1661**.