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Safe Generator Use

Photo is from the State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory Project, taken by Robert E. Esler, August 24, 1948.



BEACHES | ENERGY  
SERVICES

*Ride the Green Wave*

### Everyone's Favorite Season Is Here. Save Energy and Enjoy It More!

For centuries, our community has enjoyed visiting the beach as the springtime weather warms up and the days get longer. We enjoy the rhythmic waves and the soft white sand while relaxing in the Florida sunshine. Our customers are invited to visit [www.beachesenergy.com](http://www.beachesenergy.com) and learn about the ways to save on your energy and water consumption. By saving money, you'll enjoy yourselves that much more!



## Tidings Tips: Steps To Save Energy and Water



The 45th Anniversary of Earth Day is April 22nd. Beaches Energy Services encourages everyone to celebrate this day and make small steps toward conserving our natural resources by using less energy. A simple thing like changing out the most used incandescent light bulbs to energy efficient CFLs

or LEDs is a great first step. With warmer weather approaching fast, take the time now to schedule your free energy evaluation. Our energy auditor will be able to offer recommendations to help lower energy costs in your home. If it is time to upgrade or replace your air conditioning system, consider investing in an ENERGY STAR® system. The higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) ratings are about 14 percent more efficient than standard HVAC models. Some additional steps you can take:

- Schedule to have your unit serviced by an HVAC professional.
- Change your HVAC filter and clean the outside coils.
- Clear plants, leaves and debris away from the outside unit to allow at least two feet of clearance.
- Seal leaks in your air handler.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.
- Check all your sprinklers' timers to make sure they are set properly.
- Repair any leaking faucets.
- Consider installing a rain barrel or cistern to capture rainwater from your roof for use in your yard.



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

	March	April
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

## Paying Your Bill Is Easy! Here Are The Ways.

Beaches Energy Services makes paying your utility bill as convenient as possible. Automatic payment service gives you the convenience of having your monthly utility bill payment automatically processed from your checking account. It's quick, easy and free. Payment by phone is available 24 hours a day and offers the flexibility of paying with an electronic check for free. You may also pay by credit card through Western Union Speedpay for a \$4.95 fee for each transaction up to \$500.00. Online payments can be made at [www.beachesenergy.com](http://www.beachesenergy.com). Customers may pay in person with cash, checks or money orders at the customer service department at City Hall, 11 N. 3rd Street, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and the drive through window is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. You may also pay by using your personal online bill pay option provided by your financial institution.

## Using Portable Generators Safely

During extended power outages, portable generators offer great benefits, but they can also be very dangerous. People die every year in incidents related to improper use. Most deaths involve carbon monoxide poisoning from generators used indoors or in partially enclosed spaces. **Always buy a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm when using a generator.** The second most common fatality results from electric shock due to back feed — caused by generators that are plugged in or connected to a home's internal wiring. This extremely dangerous practice presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. The only safe way to connect the generator to a home's wiring is for a licensed electrical contractor install a transfer switch in accordance with local electrical codes.



## Protect Your Home From Energy Surges At The Meter

A First Line of Defense: plugging electronics into home surge suppressors is a way to help protect them from lightning strikes, which can surge electricity into power lines. A meter based surge arrester—installed by Beaches Energy Services— stops the surge at the meter, before it enters your home. This program is offered to provide our customers with extra protection. Our meter-based surge arrester device is strictly a power line surge suppressor that helps protect all motor driven appliances, from pool pumps to refrigerators. Computers and media equipment can be super-sensitive to surges and usually have another electrical entry point, such as a telephone or cable line. We recommend that customers use high-quality plug-in suppressors for electronics. A residential monthly charge of \$3.50 includes free installation, maintenance, and a limited damage warranty. To learn more, call 904-247-6241 or go to [www.beachesenergy.com](http://www.beachesenergy.com).

