



TIDINGS in this issue

Tidings Tips: Keep Cool In The
Kitchen And Your Home

Smart Landscaping Saves Energy

Protect Our Sea Turtles

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



BEACHES | ENERGY
SERVICES

Ride the Green Wave

Save By Conserving Energy and Then, Go Fishing!

The month of May is a great time to enjoy our tropical climate along with the sun, surf and fishing. In our community, we can fish all year long, but there is no need to “fish” for ways to save energy and money on your utility bill, if you take advantage of the tips, rebates and residential energy audits available from Beaches Energy Services.

Tidings Tips: Staying Cool In Your Kitchen And Home

Try these ways to stay cooler in your kitchen and save on your overall energy bill:

- Cook and reheat with the microwave. It uses much less energy and doesn't add heat to the kitchen.
- Cover range-top pots to cook faster.
- Allow foods to cool before storing in the refrigerator.

Other ways to save energy throughout your home include:

- Close blinds and drapes during the day.
- Air conditioning uses more energy and costs more money than any other system in your home. When at home, set the thermostat to 78 degrees, and invest in a programmable thermostat.
- Check your AC filter monthly and change it regularly.
- When you're replacing or buying appliances—look for ENERGY STAR® models. They're more efficient, and have all the features you want.



Remaining Safe After The Storm

Florida residents should expect storms, from thunderstorms with lightning to severely damaging tornadoes and even a hurricane requiring evacuation. Here are some safety tips to observe once threatening weather has passed.

- Always assume all cables and wires are energized and stay away.
- Avoid flooded or debris-laden areas, as they may hide downed power lines.
- If you leave your home, turn off appliances that may have been operating when the power went out, or turn off your main breaker.
- Avoid driving in damaged areas, as you can interfere with rescue operations and threaten your own safety.



To report power outages, downed power lines or other interruptions in service call **904-247-6171**.

Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	April	May
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

Help Protect Our Nesting Sea Turtles

Florida is the second largest loggerhead sea turtle nesting area in the world. Sea turtle nesting season is May 1 through October 31, and we all wish a safe nesting season for these beautiful creatures. Here are some things to remember:

- Avoid light, noise and movement on the beach at night.
- Take all chairs, umbrellas and gear in from the beach at night.
- Remove all litter from the beach, as sea turtles can mistake it for food, which can prove fatal.
- Never shine lights directly on a sea turtle. It will cause her to abandon her nest.
- Restrict or shield direct beachfront light from residences or landscaping.
- Don't light fires on nesting beaches at night.
- Never use flash photography.

If you find a sea turtle, always keep your distance. Never touch or disturb a nesting female, nests or emerging hatchlings. Any of these actions are a violation of federal and state laws. For more information on ways to help sea turtles survive, contact www.bstp.net or call Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol at **904-613-6081**.



Landscaping for Energy-Efficiency is Smart!

Just as sitting under a shade tree on a hot day helps you to cool off, your home's cooling costs can be reduced by planting shady landscape elements. Shady trees reduce surrounding air temperatures by as much as 9 degrees, and because cool air settles near the ground, the air under trees can be as much as 25 degrees cooler than above paving nearby.

Energy-saving landscaping steps you can try include:

- Planting trees to provide shade, especially on the southern side of homes.
- Reducing the heat island effect with permeable paving, shade, and minimizing paved areas.
- Low shrubs and ground cover plants reduce heat radiation and cool the air before it reaches your home's walls and windows.
- A lattice or trellis with climbing vines shades the home's perimeter, and can help with energy savings during their first growing season.
- Pay attention to the breeze and use fences or shrubs to help direct cooling breezes toward your house.
- Install a pergola, awning, or other shade-giving structure on the west side of your house. A vine-covered pergola will allow cool breezes through and won't retain heat.
- Choose drought tolerant plants to place next to your home to avoid moisture problems and save water.

