

HELPING OLDER PENNSYLVANIANS STAY WARM THIS WINTER

Winter brings cold temperatures and high costs for natural gas and home heating fuel. That's why Pennsylvania wants to help you prepare, so you can save energy, money and stay warm this winter. Whether it's assistance paying home heating bills or tips on weatherizing your home, there are resources and funds that can help you stay warm this winter. For more information, contact your local Area Agency on Aging, or visit www.staywarmpa.com.

HELP WITH HEATING BILLS & EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The Pennsylvania Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides cash and crisis grants to homeowners and renters, families and individuals. Eligibility is based on income and number of persons in a residence. These are grants and individuals do not have to pay back any money or face any penalties for using these funds.

In emergency situations LIHEAP funds can be used to fix broken heating equipment or leaking lines; buy more fuel; make payments to get utility service turned on or prevent services from being terminated. Emergency services are available 24 hours a day.

To apply, contact your local County Assistance Office, listed in the Blue/Government pages of your local telephone directory; call the LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095; apply for LIHEAP online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

MAKE YOUR HOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

The Pennsylvania Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income residents save money by helping them make their homes more energy efficient, educating them on how to properly use installed equipment and providing day-to-day energy conservation tips. The program looks to first serve those low-income persons of higher risk, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, and families with children.

Services are provided through a network of public and private not-for-profit agencies serving all 67 counties. To find the agency closest to you, contact your local County Assistance Office or the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development at 1-866-466-3972. The call is toll-free.

HELP WITH UTILITY BILLING DISPUTES & TERMINATION NOTICES

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) can help to resolve billing disputes with utility companies. Call 1-800-782-1110. For help with a termination notice, call the PUC at 1-800-692-7380. Consumers should first try to resolve problems directly with their utility company before calling the PUC. Assistance from utility companies & other sources. As required by law, utility companies offer assistance programs for low-income customers. Ask your utility company if you qualify for its Customer Assistance Program (CAP); Customer Assistance Referral and Evaluation Program (CARES);

Low-Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP); or other "hardship" programs or funds. Ask your utility company to put you on a "budget billing plan," which will reduce the amount of your monthly bill by spreading your energy costs over a 12-month period. Budget billing is available to customers of any income level.



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EASY STEPS TO LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILL

Heating and cooling your home uses more energy than any other system in your house. By using a few inexpensive energy-efficient measures, you can reduce your energy bills by 10 to 50 percent, and cut down on air pollution. The easiest way to save money is to conserve energy.

Follow these simple tips to save on your utility bills and conserve energy:

During winter, keep your thermostat between 66°F and 68°F. During summer, keep your thermostat between 76°F and 78°F. This could save you up to \$29 a year.

Turn off lights, TV, and other appliances when not in use.

Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater – 115 F is comfortable for most uses. Additionally, try to use less hot water in the bathroom, kitchen and laundry. Close vents in unused rooms, but be careful not to allow any plumbing to freeze. Cleaning the lint filter each time you use the dryer could save up to \$66 a year.

Take showers instead of baths - it could save up to \$28 a year.

At night, cover windows with insulated curtains - it could save up to \$24 a year.

Wrap the hot water heaters in an insulation blanket - it could save up to \$20 a year.

LONG-TERM STEPS TO REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION:

Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Fluorescent bulbs are more energy-efficient and last longer than traditional light bulbs.

Install a programmable thermostat to save energy. When used properly, programmable thermostats could save about \$100 a year. Caulk, seal and weather-strip all seams, cracks and openings to the outside of your home. You can save 10 percent or more on your energy bill by reducing the air leaks in your home.

Windows can account for 10 percent to 25 percent of your heating or air conditioning bill. If your home has single-pane windows, consider replacing them or installing storm windows.

When you buy new appliances, select energy-efficient equipment. Look for the EnergyStar® and Energy Guide labels. These appliances have been identified as being the most energy efficient products in their classes.

Adding insulation in the attic, basement, floors and walls is a good way to improve your home's energy efficiency and potentially save hundreds of dollars a year in energy costs.



**Turn
down**

**Seal
off**

**Save
up**