Summer Energy Savings!

For your EMP summer newsletter enjoyment we are going for the "low hanging fruit" for energy savings. These are easy things you can do to save money without spending money while reducing energy usage and the pollution it causes!

Should you turn up your thermostat when you leave the house?

Yes! Heated air will move towards cooler air until there is thermodynamic equilibrium. It occurs at a faster rate where the temperature differences are greater. Maintaining low temperatures at your home while you are away for most of the day will ensure that heat enters your home at a higher rate and require your AC unit to run more off and on cycles during that time. Turning your thermostat up when you are away will reduce the rate of heat exchange and your AC unit will run less often to maintain a higher temperature. It is better and more efficient to turn your temperature up when away and then allow your system to run a bit more to recover once you return home and reset your temperature.

Block out the Sun

Sunlight coming through your windows will heat up your home. Close your blinds during the hot parts of the day. If the result of closing your blinds is turning on lights in your house, be sure you are using LEDs for your lighting purposes. Turn on your ceiling fans to keep the cool air circulating, moving air makes your body feel cooler and will allow you to turn up your AC temperature a degree or two. Unless allergies are a big problem for you, open your windows at night if it is cool to allow you to turn off your air conditioner.

Place Your Electronics Strategically

It is easy to disregard the location of our air conditioning thermostats when we locate our electronic devices that generate heat. Items like lamps (especially those with incandescent bulbs), computers, televisions, etc., can generate enough heat to force your air conditioner to start up and run more than necessary to meet the temperature you have set for your living space. Take an inventory of your electronic devices and where they are located. Decide if some things should be moved away from your thermostat to allow your AC system to be more efficient. Replace your incandescent bulbs with LEDs to reduce heat. While you are at it, make sure all of your AC registers are clear of items blocking the flow of air.

Can the Stove

Kitchens are full of heat producing appliances, most notably, your oven and\or stove. Ovens and stoves can raise your kitchen's temperature up to 10 degrees. Use your microwave whenever possible since it uses about a third of the energy and produces only a fraction of the heat. Cooking outdoors on the grill is another way to keep your house cool and provide a gathering place for conversation and cool drinks. Remember to close the doors promptly as you enter and exit your house to reduce the heat and humidity coming into your house (unless you truly do live in a barn!).

Quick Tips!

When you take a vacation, turn off and unplug everything not serving a purpose while you are gone. Set your water heater to the lowest setting and shut off the water supply to the washing machine.

Vacuum the refrigerator coils about twice a year to keep the compressor running efficiently.

Don't leave the refrigerator door open. Every time it's opened, up to 30 percent of the cooled air can escape.

The Times They are A Changing

We will miss Sarah Warmuth, the previous EMP Coordinator, who relocated to the east coast. A new EMP Coordinator will be assigned in the near future. Also, please welcome Tom Hillis, the new Triad Air Awareness Coordinator!

Thank You!

Past Energy Management Program newsletters can be found here: http://fcnet/EMP_newsletters.aspx
Would you like to be a guest author for an article in the EMP newsletter? Contact us below!