

Natural Gas

Need
conservation
advice?

NEWS TO USE

February 2009

Tips For Maximum Energy Savings

- **Thermostat** – Set your thermostat between 65-68 degrees during the winter months, health permitting. You can save about 2% on your heating bill for each degree you lower the thermostat.
- **Fireplace Damper** – Since most building codes now require damper stops for gas fireplaces, keep the damper and glass doors on your fireplace closed when it's not in use.
- **Limit Use Of Exhaust Fans** – In just one hour, exhaust fans in your kitchen or bathroom can deplete a house of its warm air. Turn fans off as soon as they have completed their job.
- **Don't Forget Your Water Heater** – Water heating is the third largest energy user in your home. To reduce your water-heating costs, turn the dial on your water heater and set it to "low" (120°F), use an approved water heater insulated blanket (unless manufacturer indicates otherwise), and insulate the water pipes at the top of the water heater if located outdoors.
- **Use Household Appliances Efficiently** – Washing full loads when using your dishwasher and washing machine saves time, detergent, and energy. Make sure you clean the lint filter in your dryer after every load to save energy and speed drying time.
- **Dryer Exhaust System** – Improve the efficiency of your dryer by ensuring that the exhaust system is installed correctly. The exhaust system should always vent to the outside. Metal ducting should be as short and straight as possible. Do not use foil, plastic or vinyl ducts. They will not hold up to the high temperatures of the dryer, and tend to kink and sag, creating pockets where lint or condensation can accumulate. These steps will provide better airflow, shorter drying time, and improve the overall efficiency of your dryer.



For More Energy Savings Tips –
Call our Energy Specialists at
1-800-654-2765 or visit us at
www.swgas.com

make tax time pay

Did you earn less than \$41,646 last year? If you did, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families, could pay you as much as \$4,824 and additional credits could pay you even more. You don't have to owe federal taxes to receive this money, but you do have to file. Individual credit and refund amounts will vary. Visit www.irs.gov to estimate your refund.

Taxpayers who qualify and claim the credit, could pay less federal tax, pay no tax, or even get a tax refund beyond the amount of tax withheld. To qualify, a taxpayer must meet certain eligibility guidelines and file a tax return.

Two programs, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), offer FREE tax help to low-to-moderate-income (generally, \$39,000 and below) taxpayers, and are often located in community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls, and other convenient locations.

For more information about the EITC and how to get FREE tax filing help, visit the IRS Web site, **www.irs.gov**, keyword: **EITC**, or call **1-800-829-1040**.



**In a hurry--
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