

Feeling the Effects of Skyrocketing Temperatures

Curb energy consumption by taking advantage of utilities' tips and programs

(LOUISVILLE, Ky.) – When temperatures soar during the scorching summer months, energy usage can quickly follow. Local utility companies often offer customers energy-saving tips and programs to help manage their energy consumption.

Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company offer a full suite of programs providing customers with discounted services and offsetting expenses when various energy-efficient upgrades are made – earning customers as much as \$1,700 to put back in their pockets and reducing their energy consumption.

“The weather is a huge contributor that affects how much energy we use at home,” said David Huff, director of Customer Energy Efficiency and Smart Grid Strategy for LG&E and KU. “When as much as half of your home energy use may be attributed to heating and cooling, your air conditioner and habits around the house are areas to focus on during summer months.”

Even taking advantage of simple do-it-yourself tips can have a significant impact on how customers use energy this summer. Here are a few examples to help combat the heat wave:

- **Make a plan:** Think about the habits of everyone within your household and how they're using energy; then, make a list of the available resources you can call on for help, like your local utility company. LG&E and KU, for instance, offer the [Online Home Energy Analysis](#). In about 10 minutes, customers can log in to their online account and answer a series of questions about their home. Based on their home's actual energy usage, they receive a detailed report with tips to make their home up to 10 percent more energy efficient.
- **Put your best foot forward:** Dirty equipment or improper refrigerant levels force an air conditioner or heat pump system to work harder than necessary. LG&E and KU partner with local trained service providers and offer a discounted [A/C Testing and Tune-Up Program](#), by appointment, to make sure a customer's air conditioner is performing at its best.
- **Set it, and forget it:** Setting the thermostat to the highest comfortable setting during the day will help manage cooling expenses. For most people, the ideal setting is between 78-80 degrees. Raising your thermostat setting by one degree can save as much as 4-7 percent on the cooling portion of your energy bill.
- **Ceiling fans cool you, not the room:** Ceiling fans help circulate cool air and make rooms – and you – more comfortable during hot summer days. But, remember to turn off the fan when leaving the room because it's only circulating cool air, not lowering the room temperature.
- **Keep it clear:** Remove surrounding plants, dirt and grass clippings from the outdoor unit of an air conditioner for uninterrupted air circulation. Periodically spray the outdoor coil with a garden hose to keep it free from debris.
- **Soak up the shade:** Closing curtains, drapes and blinds on sun-facing windows helps block rays that naturally increase indoor temperatures.
- **Mark your calendar:** Designating a “maintenance” date each month serves as a reminder to check and change your air filters, as needed, following the manufacturer's instructions.

Visit the [LG&E and KU website](#) to learn more ways customers are beating the heat and saving energy.

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Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company, part of the PPL Corporation (NYSE: PPL) family of companies, are regulated utilities that serve a total of 1.2 million customers and have consistently ranked among the best companies for customer service in the United States. LG&E serves 321,000 natural gas and 397,000 electric customers in Louisville and 16 surrounding counties. KU serves 543,000 customers in 77 Kentucky counties and five counties in Virginia. More information is available at [www.lge-ku.com](#) and [www.pplweb.com](#).

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