



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Allegheny Power offers energy saving tips for hot weather**

**Greensburg, Pa. – June 25, 2003** – Summer weather has arrived and with it comes high temperatures and humidity. Allegheny Power wants its customers to know that, currently, its transmission system, as well as the systems of its generation suppliers, is working well and the Company does not anticipate any problems meeting the needs of its customers. However, Allegheny Power knows that hot, humid days increase the use of electricity and can place a strain on you and your electric bill.

To help you get through these hot summer days, Allegheny Power offers the following tips to help you manage your energy usage and keep cool.

If you have air conditioning:

- Set the cooling thermostat as high as comfort permits. The higher the thermostat setting, the more energy you save. (A good rule of thumb is to cool the house no more than 10-12 degrees below the outside air temperature.)
- Keep outdoor sections of air conditioning equipment free from shrubbery and other obstructions.
- Make sure that room air registers, both supply and return, are not obstructed by draperies or furniture.
- Check the air conditioner filter at least once a month, and clean or replace it as necessary.

Other tips to help you keep cool while reducing summer energy bills include:

- Control humidity levels by using exhaust fans when cooking, showering, or bathing. Turn off exhaust fans after humidity is cleared to avoid venting cold air.
- Increase attic ventilation. The attic temperature should never exceed 130 degrees F. Consider a power ventilator if you are unable to provide enough natural ventilation.
- Keep lamps, television sets, and other heat-producing appliances away from air conditioner thermostats.

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- Install the proper amounts of insulation in your home, and caulk and weather-strip doors and windows. It's just as important to keep heat outdoors during the summer months as it is to keep it indoors during the winter months.
- Keep window shades, venetian blinds, or draperies closed on the sunny side of the house.
- Schedule activities that produce heat and humidity – such as showering or laundry – in the early morning or late evening when outdoor temperatures are generally lower. Avoid doing only partial loads in dishwashers and clothes washers.
- Use the microwave rather than the conventional range for cooking chores.
- Lower the water heater temperature to 120 degrees F., vent the clothes dryer to the outside, and close fireplace dampers to prevent the loss of cooled air.
- Use devices such as awnings, overhangs, and sunscreens to shade windows from the sun.

To keep in mind for long term planning:

- Plant shade trees on the south, east, and west sides of your house to provide shade. They also will cool the air as moisture evaporates from their leaves.
- Use light colors to reflect solar heat. Keep this in mind when you select shingles for the roof or paint for the outside walls.

Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy company, delivers low-cost energy to three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. For more information about Allegheny, visit our web site at [www.alleghenypower.com](http://www.alleghenypower.com).

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