

**Media contact:**  
Allen Stagers  
Manager, Corporate Communications  
Phone: (724) 830-5433  
Media Hotline: (888) 233-3583  
E-mail: [astagge@alleghenyenergy.com](mailto:astagge@alleghenyenergy.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Allegheny Power Offers Winter Weather Energy Efficiency Tips for the Home**

**GREENSBURG, Pa., November 5, 2007** – Fall temperatures are comfortable, but cold weather is quickly approaching. As part of its *Watt Watchers: Use Energy Wisely* program, Allegheny Power reminds its customers that now is an excellent time to take easy, inexpensive steps to reduce household energy consumption and lower their energy bills this winter.

More than any other time of year, you notice air leaks, or drafts, in the winter. Many air leaks and drafts are easy to find because they are easy to feel—like those around windows and doors. But holes hidden in attics, basements, and crawlspaces are usually bigger problems.

Reducing air leaks could cut as much as 10 percent from an average household's monthly energy bill. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the most common places where air escapes in homes are:

<u>floors, walls and ceilings</u>	<u>31 percent</u>
<u>ducts</u>	<u>15 percent</u>
<u>fireplace</u>	<u>14 percent</u>
<u>plumbing</u>	<u>13 percent</u>
<u>doors</u>	<u>11 percent</u>
<u>windows</u>	<u>10 percent</u>

To help prepare your home for falling temperatures and conserve energy, Allegheny offers the following tips:

- Make sure your home is insulated to adequate standards—it's the single most important step toward saving energy in your home. The easiest and most cost-effective way to insulate your home is to add insulation in the attic. If you have less than 6 or 7 inches, you can probably benefit by adding more. Most U.S. homes should have between R-38 and R-49 attic insulation. In order to achieve this, many homeowners should add between R-19 to R-30 insulation (about 6 to 10 inches).
- Install storm windows over single-pane windows or replace them with double-pane windows.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows that leak air.
- When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed. Open dampers allow warm air to escape—24 hours a day.

- Locate your heating thermostat correctly. Mount the thermostat five feet from the floor so that it can sense air that's representative of the room's temperature. Don't locate thermostats on the inner surface of an outside wall, in corners, behind doors, in closets, near windows, or by a heat source.

The following tips can help you conserve energy during the winter season:

- Keep the overhead door of an attached garage closed to block cold air from infiltrating your house. Also, keep the connecting door to the house and heated basement closed.
- Close hot-air registers and radiator valves in unused rooms with all types of heating systems, except a heat pump. For zoned systems, such as ceiling cable or baseboard, set the thermostat back in unused areas.
- Make sure draperies and furniture aren't blocking the registers in your house.
- Open draperies on south-facing windows on sunny winter days to take advantage of available solar heat.
- Use bath and kitchen exhaust fans only when needed during the heating season. Fans draw heated air out of your home.
- Set your heating thermostat as low as comfort permits. Each degree over 68° F can add three percent to the amount of energy needed for heating; each degree below 68° F can save about the same amount of energy.
- Check your furnace filter at least once a month during the heating season and clean or replace it as needed.

For more information on how you can get your home ready for winter and control your energy bill, call our Customer Service Center at 1-800-Allegheny (1-800-255-3443) and request the brochure "100 Ways to Control Your Energy Bill." Or, you can visit our Web site at [www.alleghenypower.com](http://www.alleghenypower.com).

### **Allegheny Energy**

Headquartered in Greensburg, Pa., Allegheny Energy is an investor-owned electric utility with total annual revenues of over \$3 billion and more than 4,000 employees. The company owns and operates generating facilities and delivers low-cost, reliable electric service to over 1.5 million customers in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.alleghenyenergy.com](http://www.alleghenyenergy.com).