

Become an Energy Miser!



Regardless of how you heat your home this winter, everyone is concerned about cutting costs. Many fuel prices are at record highs, so getting serious about energy efficiency is no longer just a good idea... it's a necessity!

What is a serious energy miser to do? Weatherizing your home and switching to energy efficient lighting are good first steps. Adding weather striping to eliminate drafts, installing programmable thermostats and setting the temperature back will save you money, but the biggest savings will happen by replacing the energy gluttons in your home.

It's a fact. Certain appliances in your home use more energy. Targeting the biggest ones first makes the most sense... and cents!

"Replacing the heat and hot water system, and major appliances offer some of the greatest opportunities for energy savings," states Jeff Brining, NPU's Energy Efficiency Program Director. "These aren't everyday purchases," notes Brining, "but when it's the right time to replace old or broken appliances, selecting energy efficient models is the way to go. The cost difference between models is usually justified by their potential energy savings."

Which appliances offer the best energy savings?

When choosing a new water heater, a natural gas-fueled, tankless model provides the highest energy efficiency. It can reduce water-heating cost by 30 to 40% compared to a standard gas heater. If you are replacing an electric water heater, be sure to look for an ENERGY STAR model with a high-energy factor (.93 or greater).

For the most efficient furnace, choose a model with an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) rating of 90% or greater; energy efficient boilers have an AFUE rating of 85% or greater.

Make sure any new appliance is ENERGY STAR® rated. And don't forget — ***NPU is offering rebates up to \$60 for ENERGY STAR rated washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators and water heaters through December 2008.*** We also offer rebates for energy efficient central air systems. More information about these rebate programs is available on our web site at www.norwichpublicutilities.com

ENERGY STAR appliances may cost more up front, but this additional cost will be more than repaid in energy savings

over the life of the appliance. Using less energy is good for your wallet *and* for the environment. That benefits everyone!

Why aren't ENERGY STAR models available for all appliances?

Appliances that exceed federal energy efficiency standards are awarded the ENERGY STAR label by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the US Department of Energy (DOE). ENERGY STAR appliances often exceed efficiency levels of other new products by 20% to 75%.

Some appliances, like clothes dryers, are not regulated and, therefore, are not required to participate in the ENERGY STAR program. Energy usage of dryers purchased 10 years ago are no more inefficient than one purchased today. But the way you use and maintain it can have a big impact in improving its efficiency.

Utilize your dryer's energy saving features. Most dryers are equipped with an automatic shut-off feature that senses when clothes are dry, preventing the dryer from running longer than necessary. Also, when paired with high-efficiency washing machine that removes more water, drying time can also be reduced. Keep your dryer vent clean and lint-free, too!

For more information, check out the ENERGY STAR link on NPU's website at www.norwichpublicutilities.com/efficiency-main.html

Coming Soon!

Auto Pay: A New Option for Paying Your Utility Bill

Life is complicated. Paying your utility bill shouldn't be.

Norwich Public Utilities will soon be offering a new, convenient bill paying option — Auto Pay. This simply means that NPU — with your authorization — will automatically deduct your utility bill from your bank account or credit card each month.

Simplify your bill payments by enrolling in this recurring payment service. The “amount due” will be automatically withdrawn from your credit card, savings or checking account on or around the payment due date shown on your utility statement. You'll never have to remember to write and mail your check again!

Look for this option starting in February.

Other Convenient Bill Payment Options Available Now

NPU currently offers several convenient bill payment options to make your life less complicated. Choose the one that best fits your lifestyle.

Online Payment

Pay your bill from the comfort of your home using NPU's safe and secure 24/7 online bill payment site. Visit www.norwichpublicutilities.com and click the “online bill payment” link to sign up. All you need is a valid email address and a credit card to make a payment. Payments are applied the following business day.

Pay by Phone

Call NPU at 860-887-2555 during normal business hours and make your payment right over the phone. Payment can be made with a valid credit card or checking account. Your payment is processed and immediately applied to your account.

Pay by Mail

Prefer to pay by mail? No problem. To ensure quick and accurate payment processing, we offer the following tips:

- Do not send cash through the mail!
- Make your check payable to “NPU”
- Write your NPU account number on the check

Norwich Public Utilities will soon be offering a new, convenient bill paying option... Simplify your bill payments by enrolling in this recurring payment service.

- Remember to sign the check
- Use the envelope provided with your statement. If you lose the envelope, send your payment to NPU, P.O. Box 1087, Norwich, CT 06360
- Enclose the payment coupon — which tears off the bottom of your bill — with your check

Pay in Person

Our Customer Service Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Conveniently located on North Main Street in the Greenville section of Norwich, the Service Center is a “one-stop shop” for all your service needs. Whether you want to establish a budget plan, pay your bill, or update your account information, our knowledgeable Customer Service Representatives are always happy to assist you.

A payment drop box is located on the outside of the building for after-hours convenience.

What you need to know about Energy Assistance...

The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) helps pay winter heating bills of low-income households. During extreme weather conditions, low-income elderly and people living in poverty should not have to choose between heating their homes, buying food or filling prescriptions for themselves or their families. Yet many households in Connecticut do just that. Since two-thirds of the families who receive energy assistance have incomes of less than \$8,000 a year, the program clearly helps people who need help the most.

Although heating costs are at all-time highs, federal funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) — which supports CEAP — is lower than last year. To ensure their eligibility for this year's program, qualifying NPU customers are urged to **apply early for energy assistance**. For more information, contact TVCCA at 889-1365 extension 2.

Rising energy costs? Lower your energy use!



By following just a few simple tips, you can make your home more comfortable, easier to heat and more energy efficient while you save money. Here are some practical guidelines that can help this winter.

- Lower the thermostat by a few degrees
- Install a programmable thermostat that is compatible with your heating system
- Make sure your heating system is properly maintained

- Regularly clean or replace furnace filters and heat pump filters
- Make sure warm-air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators are not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes; clean as needed
- When operating efficiently, a gas flame should be blue. If your gas flame is yellow, it is wasting energy. Have the appliance serviced by a licensed contractor
- Caulk leaky windows and add weather stripping to windows and doors
- Reduce the flow of cold air by taping heavy-duty, clear plastic sheets to the inside of your window frames. Seal the plastic tightly to help reduce cold air from coming in
- Close your curtains and shades at night and open them during the day
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power)
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120° F
- Take short showers instead of baths
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes
- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label on home appliances and products. ENERGY STAR® products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy.



Learn more. Visit the NPU web site at www.norwichpublicutilities.com, www.eere.energy.gov/ or contact Norwich Public Utilities by phone at 887-2555 or by email at communitymatters@npumail.com

New Chairman of CMEEC— Alan Remondi

Lifelong Norwich resident, Alan Remondi, was elected chairman of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC) Board in elections held on November 21, 2007.

CMEEC is the joint-action agency, which strategically purchases and supplies power for the municipal utilities in Norwich and Groton, the Borough of Jewett City, South Norwalk, and East Norwalk, Connecticut. CMEEC also provides all the power required by the Town of Wallingford Department of Public Utilities, the Bozrah Light and Power Company, and the Mohegan Tribal Utility Authority. Customers of Connecticut's municipal utilities pay less than their neighbors served by "deregulated" utilities. In Norwich, residential customers pay an average of 20% less.

"Al's been an active CMEEC board member for 14 years. He understands the issues," said Maurice Scully, CMEEC's Executive Director. "He's unique as chairman because of his long-term dedication to CMEEC and the communities it serves has been completely voluntary."

Remondi is employed full time as a Principal Engineer managing technical projects for Electric Boat in Groton. He volunteers his time serving the city of Norwich as Vice-Chairman of its Utility Board and Sewer authority. The Norwich Public Utilities Board of Commissioners and Sewer Authority is the governing authority of NPU.

"I became involved with Norwich's utilities in 1993 because I wanted to help the community in the long term and utilize the skills I have



developed as a Professional Engineer. Norwich's rates are among the lowest in Connecticut AND we support the general fund by more than \$7 million each year. I'm proud to be part of that success and look forward to doing more as CMEEC chairman. My priority is to make sure the board has the knowledge and ability to make timely decisions about power supply that will keep rates low for residents," said Remondi.

Ongoing—1st Friday of each month

First Fridays

Downtown Norwich comes alive with arts and entertainment every first Friday of the month! View original art at several galleries or enjoy a musical or theater production in our theaters. Call 886-4683 for more information.

Ongoing—Swing-Dance Sunday

Norwich Social Dance Club

Sundays from 7-10 pm \$7 pp, Swing, East & West. Lessons 6-7 pm \$10 pp. No partners needed. Wauregan Ballroom, 25 Broadway. Visit www.NorwichSDC.org or call 860-237-5457 for information.

Ongoing—1st Thursday of each month

Taftville Lions Pasta Supper

ALL YOU CAN EAT Pasta Supper held on the FIRST Thursday of EVERY month at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Taftville from 4:30-6:30 pm. \$5 per person. Take out available. All profits benefit various Lions Charities and local Taftville projects. Call 889-8300 for more information.

February 23, 2008

Sweet Potato Festival

Food and entertainment sponsored by Norwich NAACP from Noon to 3 pm at a location TBA. Call Jacqueline Owens for more info at 887-4888.

February 25 – April 4, 2008

65th Annual Connecticut Artists Juried Exhibition

Paintings, sculpture, photography, print and mixed media. Slater Memorial Museum, 108 Crescent St. Call 887-2506 for more information.

March 8, 2008

The Old Norwich 9 Mile Square Memorabilia Show

Everything and anything from the towns of Norwich, Bozrah, Franklin, Lisbon, Griswold and Preston. Featuring the largest collection of Norwich-made firearms ever displayed. Sale, swap meet and appraisals from 9 am – 4 pm at the K of C Hall in Taftville. Sponsored by the Guns of Norwich, call 639-7702 or 889-4108 for more information.

Local citizens respond to global warming

As US oil dependence increases and awareness of global climate change is heating up, the Norwich Area

Global Warming Action

Group (NAGWAG) is

becoming more

active. NAGWAG

is a group of

local citizens

who are

educating

themselves and

the Norwich-area

community about

global warming, and

ways in which we can all

do our part to reduce the causes

of global warming.

David Anderson, NAGWAG chairman and former chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee of Connecticut Legislature said, "I talk to people who are

overwhelmed at the scope of this problem.

But whether it's buying locally grown

foods, owning a hybrid vehicle or

changing to compact

fluorescent lighting —

there are things that

individuals can do

to reduce carbon

emissions, which

are the root of

global warming.

Every little bit

counts."

NAGWAG is

interested in following

the lead of other cities

around the US and Connecticut in

becoming a "Cool City." The Sierra Club, a national environmental advocacy group dedicated to protecting our communities and the planet, began the Cool Cities campaign. The campaign encourages local

leaders nationwide to move forward with innovative solutions to reduce heat-trapping global warming pollution. So far,

over 180 US mayors — including 14 in

Connecticut — have signed on to

becoming Cool Cities. Connecticut Cool

Cities include Hartford, Trumbull,

Bridgeport, West Hartford, Stratford, New

Haven, Milford, Mansfield and Ledyard.

"Mayors around the country aren't

waiting for the federal government to

move forward with real clean energy

solutions like hybrid cars and renewable

energy," said Anderson. "Other cities are

showing that we can curb global warming

and save money at the same time. Why

can't Norwich be one of them?"

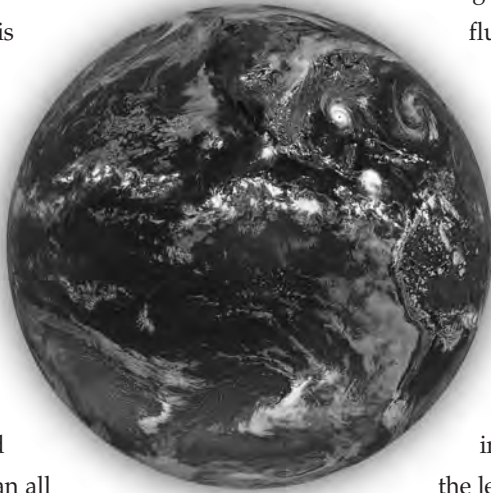
For more information on NAGWAG or

the Sierra Club's Cool Cities program

contact David Anderson at

david.anderson@snet.net or visit

<http://coolcities.us>



Here to Serve You

Visit a special link on our web site for more information:
www.norwichpublicutilities.com/communitymatters

Please call, fax or email us your questions, comments and suggestions.
Norwich Public Utilities, 173 North Main Street Norwich CT 06360
Tel: 860-887-2555 | Fax: 860-823-4172 | Email: communitymatters@npumail.com

This bulletin is printed on paper with 20% post-consumer fiber, and it costs about 11 cents to print.

Proudly printed in Norwich.