

NEWS RELEASE

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Keep Cool and Carry On *Green Living: Energy-Saving Tips from Santee Cooper*

MONCKS CORNER, S.C. — Almost half of a typical home’s utility bill goes toward heating and cooling, and extreme temperatures usually translate to higher bills.

“There’s nothing we can do to make it cooler outside, but we can reduce the amount of heat we generate within our homes,” says Zack Dusenbury, vice president of retail operations.

Avoid using the oven on hot days; instead, try cooking on the stove or with a microwave oven. Microwaves reduce cooking energy by as much as 80 percent compared to using a stove or oven, according to the Department of Energy. If you are cooking on the stove, the Energy Department recommends using the right-sized pots and covering them to warm the food more efficiently and keep your kitchen cooler.

Lighting is another potential source of heat in your home. The Energy Department’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) says only about 10 percent to 15 percent of the electricity consumed by incandescent bulbs results in light, and the rest is turned into heat. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75 percent less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescents.

“CFLs are 75 percent cooler than incandescent bulbs, so they reduce additional costs associated with cooling your home,” adds Dusenbury. Santee Cooper recently reached a milestone in its own CFL promotion to customers: 1 million bulbs distributed, for an overall savings of 40 million kilowatt-hours a year, enough to power more than 3,000 households. To view the video celebrating that milestone, visit www.youtube.com/santeecoopergreen.

EERE recommends minimizing activities that generate a lot of heat until the late in the evening or early in the morning, when temperatures aren’t as severe and demand for power isn’t as high. Always wash full loads of dishes and clothes, and consider air-drying both for additional savings. Take brief showers instead of baths, and avoid using hair dryers and curling irons.

“Even appliances like televisions, computers and stereos will add some heat to your home,” Dusenbury adds. “If you aren’t using it, you’re better off if you turn it off.”

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Santee Cooper is South Carolina's state-owned electric and water utility, and the state's largest power producer. The ultimate source of electricity for 2 million South Carolinians, Santee Cooper is dedicated to being the state's leading resource for improving the quality of life for the people of South Carolina. For more information, visit www.santecooper.com.