

Florida Public Service Commission

Consumer E-Newsletter

May 2006

TURN IT ON – TURN IT OFF

More than 70 second, third and fourth graders from Cornerstone Elementary School were on hand for the premiere of the PSC's original conservation video, *Turn It On; Turn It Off*, on April 13 at the [Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science](#).

Chairman Lisa Polak Edgar talked to the students about ways to conserve energy. When interviewed by WCTV (Channel 6), she said, "We're hoping the kids will go home and talk to their parents about what they've learned and they'll go through their home and turn the lights off when they're done, turn off the computers when they're done and really appreciate how they can make a difference."

Other guest speakers included Tallahassee Mayor John Marks; Chris Dudley, President of the Museum's Board of Directors; and Chiles High School Principal Alan Cox and his "starring cast" from Chiles High School. Chiles High School drama students who star in the video, produced by WFSU, shared with students what they had personally learned from their pro-



**Chairman
Lisa Polak Edgar**

The spiraling cost of energy in today's market has the attention of us all. Reducing energy use – conservation – is the first line of defense against these rising costs and is also the easiest and least expensive. Fortunately, as homeowners, there are many things we can do to cut our energy usage and conserve.

On average, heating and air-conditioning accounts for the majority of household electric usage, comprising about 60 percent of most monthly energy costs. Water heating accounts for approximately 15 percent, refrigeration about 13 percent, and the remaining 12 percent includes everything else.

Many things can be done to reduce the electric bill. Some of the easiest and most effective ways to help conserve energy, trim costs and gain better control over energy use are:

- In the summer, cool your home at 78-degrees with the thermostat fan set on auto, and use ceiling fans. For additional savings, set the thermostat on 80 when away from home.
- In the winter, heat your home at 68-degrees with the thermostat fan set on auto. To save even more, lower the thermostat to 65 at bedtime or when away from home.
- Install a programmable thermostat which will automatically raise and lower the temperature as needed.
- Clean or replace air-conditioning filters monthly to trim cooling costs and help the unit run more efficiently.
- Turn off ceiling fans and lights when leaving a room for an extended period. Every bit helps.

It can be surprising how much energy household appliances use and their impact on energy bills. Energy-saving tips to remember when doing laundry are:

- Use the correct amount of water in the washing machine for each load, especially when using hot water. Always use a cold rinse cycle.
- Clean the dryer lint filter before every use to reduce drying time.
- Use the dryer's auto sensor function, if available, to avoid over-drying clothes.

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duction experiences. The students watched the play and asked many questions of the actors, who originally performed the play for several Leon County schools during Energy Awareness Month in October 2005.

"We're pleased that the Mary Brogan Museum will feature our *Turn It On; Turn It Off* video in its ongoing Energy Exhibit that will be seen by many visitors," said Chairman Edgar. "We also look forward to promoting our conservation program in schools throughout Florida as a result of our partnership with WFSU and Chiles High School."

She added, "Even small changes help, and we can all work together to manage our energy costs."

Contact your utility company for other ways to save even more. Most utility companies are extremely helpful with conservation, and here are two ideas often suggested to customers:

- Home Energy Audit – an analysis of a customer's household energy use, along with specific suggestions to save. In some homes, much of the heated and cooled air escapes because of poorly insulated ceilings, doors, and windows. An energy audit can detect such problems and make recommendations for improvement.
- Duct System Test – your utility company may offer such a program or refer you to a contractor who will inspect your home's cooling and heating ducts for leaks.

As Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission and as a consumer, I'm concerned about energy costs and am committed to help consumers take advantage of the many conservation measures that can help save money. The Commission will continue to promote energy conservation to help consumers who want to save energy, and also save money.



The Commission offers a free brochure, **Conserve Your World**, which provides many energy-saving suggestions. We have also introduced a new feature on our Web site, Save Energy, Save Money, <http://www.floridapsc.com/consumers/house>.



Click on the site and move your cursor through the various rooms in our featured "conservation house" to learn things such as why compact fluorescent bulbs are four times more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs while providing equal lighting.

We can all contribute to energy conservation. As I continue teaching my children to "turn off the lights when they're not in use," I'm reminded that if we conserve today, we can save energy for tomorrow.

Lisa Polak Edgar is the Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission. For more information on how to order Conserve Your World brochures, please call 1-800-342-3552, or write to the Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850. Also, visit the Commission's Web site, www.floridapsc.com.