



KNOW YOUR FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Matthew M. Carter II, Commissioner

ENERGY CONSERVATION

As a Floridian, I have a profound appreciation for the beauty of Florida's natural environment. The state and its residents have truly been blessed. These blessings must be protected and the needs of consumers must be met as we utilize our natural resources to provide electricity on demand to all of Florida's nearly 18 million citizens. One of the easiest ways to preserve natural resources is through energy conservation.

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) encourages energy conservation primarily by requiring investor-owned electric utilities to provide incentives to customers for using less electricity. This is an approach called demand-side management, and it is a regulatory tool that is designed to reduce the need to build new power generation facilities. Electric companies have employed a number of demand-side management tools to encourage conservation. For example, companies may offer free evaluations of a home's energy efficiency and point out improvements that could reduce the customer's energy consumption. Companies may also offer monetary incentives to residential and business customers who undertake energy-saving improvements to their homes and offices, as well as for new construction. Call your local electric company, cooperative, or municipal utility agency to learn about particular demand-side management incentive programs.

Florida's utility companies are searching for ways to help consumers use less energy. Lawmakers and manufacturers are also working together to make sure that refrigerators, furnaces, light fixtures and other appliances are energy efficient.

In addition to what utilities do, there are simple things that consumers and businesses can do on their own initiative to help reduce energy consumption. This is the simplest means to protecting the environment and to reducing monthly bills. As Florida residents, it is our responsi-

bility to make a difference, too. Start by visiting your local appliance dealer to determine how much energy can be saved by replacing outdated appliances. Also, take advantage of conservation programs sponsored by your utility. Something as simple as using energy-saving light bulbs can make a difference in your bill. Even if this is a small reduction in personal costs, the aggregate reduction in energy consumption from millions of customers could be staggering. We all need to be responsible stewards, and not just rely on our neighbors.

The PSC is committed to assisting in this effort by providing consumers

Tips on Simple Ways to Save Energy and Money

- ✓ Control your thermostat. The recommended winter setting for daytime use is 65-68 degrees Fahrenheit and 55-58 at night. During summer months, the recommended setting is 78 degrees.
- ✓ Turn off all lights when you leave a room or when they're not in use.
- ✓ Avoid using hot water for washing clothes. Washing with cold or warm temperatures works well with today's detergents.
- ✓ Clean the lint filter in your dryer after each use and clean the exhaust hose periodically. This allows the air to circulate efficiently and helps eliminate fire hazards.
- ✓ Weatherize doors and windows and seal unused doors. Savings in annual energy use could amount to 10 percent or more.
- ✓ Close the damper when your fireplace is not in use. An open damper in a 48-inch square fireplace can let up to eight percent of your heat escape out of the chimney.
- ✓ Ceiling fans should turn clockwise in the summer and counterclockwise in the winter. Reversing the direction of the blades pushes warm air down into the room.
- ✓ Schedule a free or low-cost home energy audit by calling your utility's customer service department.
- ✓ Cover pans when cooking to reduce the amount of heat needed and the cooking time.
- ✓ Select a heating system that is properly sized for your house.

with a series of brochures, for example, *Where To Find Help* and *Conserve Your World*, that contain pertinent energy conservation tips. Finding ways to help consumers conserve energy and save money is a smart move for all residents of Florida.

For more details on energy efficiency, please visit the Natural Resources Defense Council's web site at www.nrdc.org. If you would like more information on energy conservation, please call the PSC at 1-800-342-3552, or visit our web site at www.floridapsc.com. You may also e-mail us at contact@psc.state.fl.us.