

Spring Into Energy Efficiency Tips

We have finally made it through the long, cold winter months! With the arrival of spring comes several opportunities and various measures that, when implemented, will help you save money while improving energy efficiency in your home.

HVAC Maintenance

Let's first look at a few measures to take for the largest user of electricity, which is the HVAC system. Now is the time to have your HVAC unit serviced in preparation for the upcoming hot summer weather.

Heating and cooling technicians are available and should be contacted to come out to your home to check freon levels as well as to clean the system properly. Make sure the freon line insulating foam is in good shape or replace it if needed.

We also recommended the replacement of return filters while keeping in mind that the less expensive fiberglass type provides maximum air flow and energy efficiency.

It is also important to check any outside units and ensure there is at least two feet of clearance between the unit and any trees, bushes, or shrubs. This may require them being cut back or pruned. Last, but not least, don't forget to check ductwork for

leakages. Duct fittings and attachments should be sealed with Mastic sealant to help reduce air infiltration. Studies show that an estimated 30 percent of energy lost in the US is through leaky ductwork!

Check for Air Leaks

Once you have completed maintenance on the HVAC system, evaluate air infiltration and sealing inside your home. Keeping your home sealed is key to retaining HVAC conditioned air inside.

Door weather-stripping is a key area of concern that needs to be monitored regularly and maintained since this is a high-traffic area. Keep in mind that if the door is shut and sunlight penetrates through, it's time for maintenance.

Also, remember that any penetrations into unconditioned spaces, such as attic access doors or around sink or tub plumbing spaces, will need attention and repair.

Keeping your home airtight is a great way to save energy and money!

You will also need to check deep freezers for a proper and tight seal and replace any broken seals to reduce energy consumption. Refrigerators should only run



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about one-third of the time; therefore, a normal run time is about 20 minutes per hour. If you find your refrigerator running all the time, it is most likely time to replace it with an Energy Star qualified model.

Energy Star Rebates

Last but not least, don't forget South River EMC has rebates for the purchase Energy Star certified clothes washers, refrigerators and dehumidifiers! Look for the Energy Star logo on the energy guide before you purchase. If you do purchase it, be sure to send in the rebate application for process. Therefore, as you complete your thorough "spring cleaning" this year, keep in mind these energy and money saving tips. If you are interested in rebate information and energy-saving tips, please visit our website www.sremc.com/advise-guys.

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