

# Currents

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## SAVE ENERGY IN COMFORT

On average, heating makes up half of an electrically heated home's energy bill. This is the season when energy bills reach their peak, but with a few simple steps, you can reduce energy waste, bring your heating costs down and keep your home comfortable.

- Seal in warm air by caulking or weatherstripping around all doors, windows, and other openings where pipes or cords enter your home.
- If you have a fireplace, be sure the flue is closed. If it doesn't have glass doors, installing them or blocking the opening, will help keep the draft out.
- Install a programmable or smart thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature in your home around your schedule.
- Cover windows with insulated drapes. Open those on the south and west sides during the day to allow the sun in, close them all at night to keep the heat in.
- Replace or cover single-pane windows with plastic film.
- Insulate walls, attics, plumbing, ductwork, and floors. Insulation is one of the most cost-effective energy conservation investments and begins to pay off immediately.
- Replace your outdated heating system with a heat pump and enjoy affordable and efficient heating and cooling year round.

Clark Public Utilities offers many energy-efficiency rebates for electrically heated homes, including newly increased incentives for windows and insulation. Learn more at our website, or contact an energy counselor at 360-992-3355 or [ecod@clarkpud.com](mailto:ecod@clarkpud.com).

## LIGHT LINES



### PLUG IN THE SAVINGS WITH LEDs

Few household products are as universal as lightbulbs. Light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, use 70 to 90 percent less electricity and last much longer than incandescent light bulbs. While compact fluorescent lights, or CFLs, were an improvement over traditional bulbs, LEDs require even less energy and last much longer. As CFLs burn out, recycle or dispose of them properly because they contain some mercury.

Customers can recycle burned out screw-in CFLs at either utility office location and receive two free LEDs in exchange, per day.



### CONTACT US

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## ENERGY COUNSELORS CAN FIND THE SAVINGS



Clark Public Utilities has a team of energy counselors trained to help you maximize your home's energy-saving potential. If you want to improve your home's efficiency and long-term affordability, we're here to help.

An energy counselor will review your home's basic characteristics and energy usage history, and offer objective, unbiased recommendations to save energy and money immediately and over the long term. The counselor will help you prioritize improvements that could lower your home's energy bill, as well as the review ones that may not be worth the investment.

Our energy counselors also provide tips for weatherization and can walk you through current utility rebates and incentives for energy efficiency upgrades.

Energy Counselors are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at 360-992-3355 or at [ecod@clarkpud.com](mailto:ecod@clarkpud.com). If your questions can't be answered in a phone call, free in-home energy reviews are available.

## KNOCK MOLD OUT COLD

This time of year our homes are sealed up tight, humidity is high and outside temperatures are low. Unfortunately, these conditions are perfect for mildew, mold and dry rot to proliferate. Protect your health and your property with these simple solutions:

- Keep your home warm and indoor air circulating. Use exhaust fans while cooking, bathing or doing laundry. Leave the fans on for up to an hour after you're finished to remove any extra moisture.
- Ensure clothes dryers vent outside without leaks or restriction.
- Pay extra attention to windows, walls and other surfaces in rooms with poor air circulation and/or high humidity. Keep surfaces free of soap scum and condensation to help prevent mold spores from getting established.

Mold occurs naturally and may return on its own, so remember to keep an eye out. Some molds can be toxic and must be removed by a professional, but with proper prevention this northwest pest can often be avoided.



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