



Rick Snyder, Governor  
Valerie Brader, Executive  
Director

Contact: [Judy Palnau](mailto:Judy.Palnau@michigan.gov)  
517-284-8300  
[www.michigan.gov/energy](http://www.michigan.gov/energy)

## Keep Cool This Summer and Cut Your Electric Bills at the Same Time

**June 18, 2015** – With summer almost here, the [Michigan Agency for Energy](http://www.michigan.gov/energy) (MAE) today is highlighting [Be SummerWise tips](http://www.be-summerwise.com) that will help keep you cool this summer, while cutting electric bills.

“Summer provides another opportunity to cut electric bills by eliminating energy waste,” said Valerie Brader, MAE’s executive director. “The Be SummerWise website has many useful low- and no-cost tips to help customers do just that.”

[Be SummerWise](http://www.be-summerwise.com) features information on using energy wisely; utility-sponsored energy efficiency programs; planning ahead by using budget payment plans offered by utilities; available energy assistance and weatherization programs; and preparing for and surviving power outages.

The [U.S. Department of Energy](http://www.energy.gov) provides the following tips to cut energy usage:

- Use a fan. Ceiling fans will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.
- Install and set a programmable thermostat -- it could help you save up to 10 percent on heating and cooling costs a year.
- Insulate your attic and walls, and seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.
- Insulate and seal ducts -- air loss through ducts accounts for about 30 percent of a cooling system’s energy consumption.
- On hot days, consider using an outdoor grill instead of your oven.
- Buy an ENERGY STAR-qualified air conditioning unit -- on average, they're up to 15 percent more efficient than standard models.
- Use the bathroom fan when taking a shower or bath and a range hood when cooking -- this helps remove heat and humidity from your home.

For more information about MAE, please visit [www.michigan.gov/energy](http://www.michigan.gov/energy).

###

**Michigan Agency for Energy  
7109 W. Saginaw Highway  
P.O. Box 30221  
Lansing, MI 48909**