



Home Energy **Q** and **A**: What Really Saves Money?

We're all interested in saving money. Some of the biggest energy cost savings stem from habits and behaviors that cost nothing to implement. Here are some examples, as revealed through frequently asked questions about home energy costs and savings.

Q. Does it save money to set my air conditioner a little higher while I'm at work or at school?

A. Yes.

- Recommended AC settings are 78 degrees when you're at home and a few degrees higher when away at work or school.
- Set the thermostat carefully and accurately.
- In summer, higher thermostat settings cost you less and lower settings cost you more. Setting your thermostat just one degree higher saves up to 12 percent in cooling costs.



Q. Does it really save energy if I turn off the lights as I leave a room?

A. Yes. Keep up the good habit of turning off lights (and ceiling fans!) when you leave a room. Lights and fans both add heat to a room. The fan's motor contributes a little heating even as its breeze cools your skin.

Q. In hot weather, why do my electric bills rise even though the temperature setting at my thermostat has not changed?

A. Even if your indoor thermostat setting never changes, your air conditioner will run longer (more total minutes) on hotter days to maintain your selected indoor temperature. The longer your AC runs, the more it costs. That's why it costs less to cool to 78 degrees in May than it does in August.

Q. Is there someone I could call if I have questions about things like solar water heating, solar photovoltaic systems, efficient lighting, electric heat pumps and natural gas appliances?

A. Yes. Call Energy Services at 891-4YOU (4968) or visit Talgov.com/YOU.



"Cash for Trash" Offers Energy Savings Next Event on October 15



The City's twice yearly Cash for Trash event returns **Saturday, October 15, from 8 am to 2 pm**, with expanded choices for savings.

City residential utility customers can opt to receive two 20-watt (75-watt equivalent) Energy Star compact fluorescent lights (CFL), while supplies last, to help save money on their electric costs. Two bulbs have a retail value of approximately \$6, but represent an **additional energy savings of about \$138** over the life of two CFLs. As an alternative, customers may receive a coupon worth \$5 off their City utility bill.

On October 15, residential utility customers may bring trash items too large to fit in their 96-gallon garbage container to the City's Solid Waste Services facility, located at 2727 Municipal Way (between W. Pensacola St. and the Messer Field softball complex).

Residents may also bring household hazardous waste items and electronic items (including all computer parts) to Cash for Trash for disposal/recycling by Leon County's Solid Waste Division. Do **not** bring items such as household garbage, yard waste or construction/demolition debris. For more information, call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) or visit Talgov.com/YOU.

For more information on your City government,



For all City of Tallahassee utility-related inquiries, including account issues or to report outages, please call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968).



INSIGHT is published monthly by the City of Tallahassee's Department of Communications to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. For more information, call 891-8533 or visit the City's website at Talgov.com. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the appropriate City department. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Requests should be made at least 72 hours in advance. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance request.



SEPTEMBER 2011

INSIGHT

Paying Your Utility Bill



Simple as a Click

Visit Talgov.com/YOU for SmartBill or **e+** Online payment options.

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Come See (and Feel) the Power!

*Hopkins Plant
Open House Celebrates
Public Power Week*



Just about everyone takes electricity for granted. While that's to be expected, have you ever sat back and wondered just what **300 million watts** looks like? Or feels like? In Tallahassee, it's **your** very own power plant. And early next month, you're invited to help us observe Public Power Week by taking a tour of Your Own Utilities' Hopkins Power Plant.

On **Sunday, October 2, from 1-5 pm**, Your Own Utilities will host an open house and "Owners' Tour" at the Arvah B. Hopkins Electric Generating Plant, located three miles west of Capital Circle SW on Geddie Road, between highways 20 and 90. The open house includes plant tours, field demonstrations, energy efficiency tips, information booths and light refreshments.

For over a century, Your Own Utilities has served local customers with reliable, affordable electricity. Electric revenues help pay for vital City services such as police protection, our Best in America parks and recreation program, responsive transportation and a quality of life we've all come to expect. These are just some of the things that make Tallahassee a great place to live; in fact, we've been named the Most Livable City in America!

Plenty of free parking is available at the Hopkins plant. Please bring the entire family and learn more about where your electricity comes from and why public power in Tallahassee is so important to us now and in the future. For more information, please contact Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) or visit Talgov.com/YOU.

NOTE: For ongoing security reasons, we ask that you please leave backpacks at home or in your car; purses and other small packs will be searched at the gate. Also, cameras and other photographic equipment are not allowed inside the power plant on the tours.



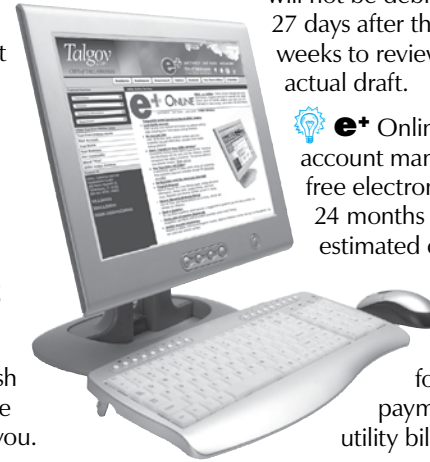
Paying Your Utility Bill - Simple as a Click

Other Convenient Payment Options Available

Paying your City utility bill has never been easier. The City's SmartBill can be delivered to your email's inbox. The SmartBill contains an exact copy of the entire bill and provides links to important City information. Most importantly, the SmartBill lets YOU schedule your payment when you want it paid, and there are no online fees. Nearly 25,000 City utility customers have converted to paperless billing via the SmartBill option.

Other convenient utility bill payment options include:

- Remote payments – If you prefer paying in person, the City offers 17 remote payment locations, listed online at Talgov.com/YOU. You may pay with cash or a check (no transaction fee) but please remember to bring your utility bill with you.



- Automatic bank draft – This safe and convenient program allows your account to be credited for the monthly billing and any outstanding charges. The funds will not be debited from your bank account for at least 27 days after the bill date, allowing you almost four weeks to review your bill for accuracy prior to the actual draft.

- e+ Online – You can also use your utility account management tool, e+ Online, to make free electronic payments, view and compare up to 24 months of usage and charges, view your current estimated charges to date and find easy ways to save energy, water and money.

Please visit Talgov.com/YOU to sign up for SmartBill, login or register for e+ Online, review the automatic payment program or find out about other utility bill payment options.

NATURAL GAS UTILITY

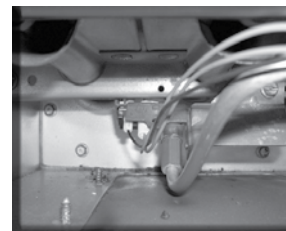


Now's a Good Time to Check Natural Gas Equipment

City Offers Gas Pilot Lighting Service

With the fall season and cooler weather coming soon, your City of Tallahassee Natural Gas Utility reminds customers to have your natural gas equipment inspected, serviced and pilot lights lit by a trained professional. Your Natural Gas Utility is available to assist customers with pilot lights for a minimal fee of \$28.50 per trip.

For more information or questions about natural gas rebate and loan programs, please call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) or visit Talgov.com/YOU.



CALENDAR

- 12** City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm
- 17** Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency annual retreat, 9 am-1 pm at Goodwood Museum, 1600 Miccosukee Rd.
- 17** Community Redevelopment Agency Board meeting at 1:30 pm at Goodwood Museum, 1600 Miccosukee Rd.
- 19** City Commission workshop at 3:30 pm
- 25** Joint City-County Comprehensive Plan 2011-1 adoption public hearing at 6 pm in the County Commission Chambers, fifth floor, Leon County Courthouse
- 26** City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm

All meetings are held in the City Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall (300 S. Adams St.), unless noted otherwise. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. City Commission meetings are shown live on WCOT, the City's government access channel, Comcast Cable channel 13. The meetings are rebroadcast the following Thursday at 12:30 pm and 7:30 pm and the following Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 pm. City Commission meetings are also streamed live online and are indexed and posted for viewing on Talgov.com. Call the Department of Communications at 891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda online at Talgov.com. Follow City news on Twitter @COTNews.