



**ENERGY TIP**

## Set Your Home's Heating Thermostat Carefully!

With colder temperatures having already arrived, save energy and money throughout the fall and winter by reviewing these important tips on properly using your home heating thermostat.

**1. In cold weather, adjust your central heating thermostat carefully and accurately.** Your thermostat management determines your heating cost. The recommended indoor temperature on winter days is **68 degrees**, while the nighttime setting depends on your heating equipment:



- **Electric Heat Pump:** At night, reduce the temperature setting by 2-3 degrees (or lower if you have a programmable thermostat). Raise the temperature only 1-2 degrees at a time the next morning to minimize operation of supplemental electric heat strips, which triple your operating cost when in use.
- **Natural Gas, Propane Gas or Oil Furnace:** At night, for significant energy and cost savings, adjust your thermostat down to 60 or 55 degrees, or Off. The furnace can rapidly reheat the house in the morning.
- **Electric Resistance "Strip" Heating:** Lower the temperature to 60 or 55 degrees overnight, or Off. Electric strip equipment has the highest operating expense so set your thermostat low at night to avoid high costs.

**2. Whatever type of central heating equipment you have, set your thermostat's FAN selection to AUTO; never set it to ON.** The ON setting operates your indoor-air distribution fan nonstop and increases duct leakage and your costs while reducing efficiency and your comfort.

**3. If you have a Heat Pump, make sure your thermostat is not accidentally set to EM HEAT or EMERGENCY HEAT.** Operating costs can triple in the Emergency Heat mode.

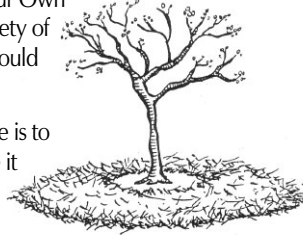
**Need more information or a home energy audit appointment?** Call 891-4YOU (4968) or visit [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU).



**SOLID WASTE SERVICES**

## Fall Recycling Tips

When most people think of recycling, the first items that come to mind are paper and cardboard, cans, glass and plastic containers. But with the fall season upon us, Your Own Utilities reminds you there are a variety of additional materials that can, and should be, recycled.



**Yard Debris** – The best alternative is to compost yard debris and/or place it around trees and shrubs in your yard. Although City collection crews will pick up leaves and other yard debris placed at the curb in plastic bags, a better alternative is to reuse old cardboard boxes for preparing yard debris for collection.

**Fall Decorations** – Pumpkins, gourds, pine straw and hay bales are great additions to your yard when they have completed their duties as fall decorations. Apply pine straw and hay around trees or shrubs. The critters living in and around your yard will enjoy a fall treat of pumpkin and gourd leftovers.

**Tailgating Supplies** – Fall means football season! When planning an event for the big game, avoid using disposable items and single serving-type products. Instead, provide your tailgating crew with reusable plates, cups and flatware in your team's colors. Those flimsy paper or Styrofoam® plates just don't cut it anymore. And of course, recycle empty cans and bottles.

**Bulky Items** – Taking advantage of the cooler weather to do some cleaning? Have some unwanted bulky items (furniture, mattresses, old carpet, appliances) for curbside trash collection? Remember to separate them from yard debris placed out for collection. This will allow both your yard debris and bulky items to be processed for recycling. As always, any useable items should be donated for reuse rather than discarded for curbside collection.

For more information on recycling, please visit [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU).



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**LIMIT WATER USE NOW TO LOWER SEWER COSTS LATER!**

*Watch that winter water usage!*





## Project Share – Helping Those Truly in Need

While the cooler temperatures of winter bring a welcome relief to some citizens from Tallahassee’s long hot summer, it can also be an extremely difficult time for other local citizens. Imagine struggling to put enough money together to simply pay for heating your home during the cold months of winter.

Fortunately, the City has a long-standing program allowing you to help those truly in need. The City’s Project Share program, now in its 26th year, has aided thousands of Tallahassee utility customers needing assistance thanks to the generosity of City utility customers. Project Share funds are administered locally by the Capital Area Community Action Agency and each application is carefully screened to ensure funds are distributed to those truly in need.

The City offers a convenient pledge program to collect funds for Project Share. Simply indicate whatever amount you wish to add to your monthly utility bill by completing the pledge form below and returning it with your next utility payment.

For more information on Project Share or if you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) or [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU), or the Capital Area Community Action Agency at 222-2043.

### PROJECT SHARE

Please clip, fill out and return this coupon with your next utility bill payment.

#### YES! I'd like to get involved in Project Share

I hereby authorize the City of Tallahassee to add the pledge amount indicated below to my next monthly bill and continue until I notify the City of Tallahassee that I no longer wish to participate. I understand that my contributions are 100 percent tax deductible.

#### Monthly Project Share Pledge

\$1    \$3    \$5    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer, you may make a one-time donation. Please make your check or money order (in any amount) payable to Project Share and mail it in with your next payment. Thank You!

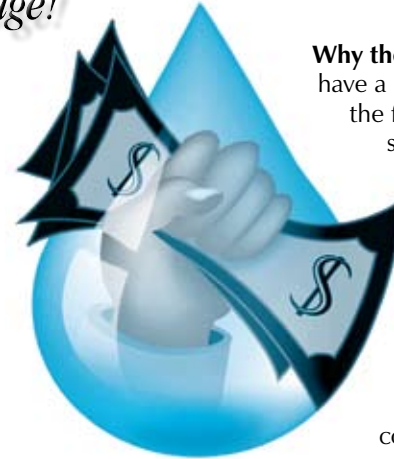
# Limit Water Use Now to Lower Sewer Costs Later!

*Watch that winter water usage!*

Each year in April, the City sets your residential maximum sewer charge based on winter water usage. The City calculates your Sewer Max based on the second highest month of water usage as billed during December through March. The Sewer Max remains in effect for a full year and saves you money through the warmer months when you may be using more. So conserve now and save later!

#### Why the four winter months?

Typically, most customers use large amounts of water during the hot summer months, watering lawns and gardens, taking frequent showers, washing cars and so on. Customers usually reduce their water usage in the winter. So rather than billing based on heavy summer use, the City uses the winter months when your water use should be a good deal less.



**Why the second highest month?** Even if you have a month of high water usage during the four winter months, the City uses the second highest consumption month to further ensure you get the lowest charge possible.

Check your home now for water leaks, especially in sinks, inside and outside faucets and toilets.

Run full loads in the dishwasher and use appropriate load settings for your washing machine. For more information on sewer bills, water conservation and ways to save water and money, visit [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU).

## Utility Rate Reductions

Good news everyone! As of October 1, City residential electric and natural gas rates have decreased two percent each, and commercial rates have dropped between 2.9 and 3.4 percent. This brings the total electric rate reduction to 23 percent since January 2009 and the natural gas rate reduction to 24 percent for the same time period.

For comparison, the City’s residential rates remain below the statewide average and its commercial rates are among the lowest in the state. The City’s utility rates are adjusted twice annually, in April and October, based on the cost of fuels to run power plants, the price of natural gas and other factors.

“Having recently met with a group of small business owners, I know this comes as welcome news as they continue to endure a difficult economy,” said City Commissioner Andrew Gillum, lead commissioner on the City’s Financial Viability of the Government target issue committee. Gillum also indicated that “the City needs to find more ways to help the business community in these trying times.”

### CALENDAR

# DECEMBER

- 3** 25th annual Winter Festival and *Celebration of Lights*; 3-10 pm downtown (visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) for festival information)
- 7** City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm
- 14** Community Redevelopment Agency Board meeting at 3 pm
- 14** City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm
- 26** **Christmas holiday (observed)**; administrative offices closed (City solid waste collection schedules change during holiday weeks – please visit [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU) for information on schedule changes during Christmas week)
- 1/2/12** **New Year’s holiday (observed)**; administrative offices closed (City solid waste collection schedules change during holiday weeks – please visit [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU) for information on schedule changes during New Year’s week)

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](http://Talgov.com). Call the Department of Communications at 891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda online at [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com). Follow City news on Twitter @COTNews.