

Energy-saving tips to reduce usage and expenses

Oregon and the Northwest have enough power generation potential to provide all of the energy needed...at this time. There is reason for concern, however, because the dry winter and greatly reduced snowpack will affect the availability of hydropower, the largest single source of power in the northwest.

If needed, energy conservation could become mandatory. Because reducing our energy use now could help us avoid that requirement, here are some energy reducing tips.

1. Lower your thermostat at night and when you're not home. Use a programmable thermostat so it's automatic. Every degree lower can take as much as two percent off your power bill.

2. Make it a habit to shut off lights, computers and other ap-

pliances when you're not using them.

3. Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs. They use a fourth of the energy used by regular bulbs.

4. Replace halogen lamps in torchieres with compact fluorescent torchieres. They use about 70 percent less energy and produce more light.

5. Use motion detectors to turn on outdoor lights rather than leaving them on all night.

6. Close your fireplace damper when there's no fire. Leaving it open is like having a 48-inch-square hole in your house.

7. Close off and don't heat unoccupied rooms.

8. Use low-flow showerheads; they use 50 percent less hot water.

9. Set your water heater at 115 degrees (F), which is com-

fortable for most uses. Turn your water heater off when you go on vacation.

10. Wrap your water heater in R-11 insulated wrap but don't cover the thermostat.

11. Run only full loads in your dishwasher and clothes washer, and wash in warm or cold water.

12. Wash and dry clothes on week-ends when energy use isn't as high.

13. Air dry your dishes. In nicer weather or in a warm basement, air dry your clothes.

14. Clean your furnace and heat pump filters to keep them operating efficiently.

15. Limit use of kitchen and bathroom fans since they pull heat out of the house.

16. Open south-facing drapes and blinds during the day to let heat in. Cover all windows at night in winter.

17. Weatherstrip around your doors and windows and anywhere you feel a draft.

18. Set your refrigerator between 37 and 40 degrees (F).

19. Keep your refrigerator well-stocked. It takes more energy to cool an empty fridge.

20. Clean lint out of refrigerator coils and out of dryers.

21. Use a microwave or toaster oven for cooking and heating small portions.

22. Check ceilings and crawl spaces to ensure there's adequate insulation.

23. Seal or fix broken basement windows.

24. Fix broken ducts and replace cracked or peeling tape on ducts. Use UL (Underwriters Laboratories) approved tape.

25. For long-term savings, choose energy-efficient appliances. Compare energy rating labels before you buy.

For more information, call your local utility or go to www.bpa.gov where you can get the "Energy Savers" tips put out by the Office of Energy Efficiency of the U.S. Department of Energy.

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ways keeping in mind just who it is you are volunteering your time and efforts for.

Surely many of your readers have cast their votes by now, but for those who have not I would urge you to take a few short minutes to complete and send in your ballots, regardless of your candidate preference.

Thomas E. Jones
Mist

**We weren't hiding,
sorry for confusion**

To the Editor:

Last week we mailed a flyer to the voters of Vernonia School District to urge you to vote for Schann Nelson, Leslie O'Leary, Cari Levenseller and Jeff Blum for school board. We sincerely regret any confusion that occurred because the flyer does not state who paid for it.

The flyer was developed and paid for by the individuals listed because we want to continue our progress as an effective and efficient board.

Please remember to vote. Mail your ballot by Thursday, March 8 or drop it off in the library by Election Day, March 13.

Serving the children and the voters,

Schann W. Nelson
Leslie O'Leary
Cari Levenseller
Jeff Blum

Ed. Note: The law no longer requires attribution of campaign materials. It was ruled unfair to require identification of those responsible for disseminating campaign materials, though there are reporting requirements in campaigns where more than minimal amounts are spent. Additionally, those who wanted to hide their identities, simply used a committee name.

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St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, March 17th at 2:00 p.m.



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and later in the evening

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