



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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INFORMATIONAL COLUMN

REP. GARY HEBL OFFERS RESIDENTS SUMMER SAVINGS AND HOME COOLING TIPS

MADISON - With the dog days of July and August coming up, there are a number of tips available from the state's Focus on Energy program that I wanted to let you know about as your State Representative.

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership which offers eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses incentives to install cost-effective and efficient renewable energy improvements. While these are great services, you don't have to install a solar panel to protect our environment and save on your utility bills this summer.

Here are a few tips the Focus on Energy Program has developed to make your home more efficient this summer:

SUMMER COOLING TIPS:

- **MAINTENANCE:** To keep your central air conditioner at peak efficiency, schedule regular maintenance on your air conditioner that includes checking on the refrigerant charge as well as indoor and outdoor air coils.
- **WINDOW AIR CONDITIONERS:** If you have window air conditioner, use a timer to turn on the air conditioner half an hour before you get home, rather than running it while your are gone. Keep the filters clean. If possible, locate the unit in a window that is most central to the area you are cooling and on the shadiest side of the building.
- **PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS:** Setting back your thermostat or using a programmable thermostat allows homeowners to use less energy without sacrificing comfort when away from home during set periods of time throughout the week. Through proper use of a thermostat's set back mode, you can save up to \$100 every year in energy costs. Remember to keep the thermostat set at energy-saving temperatures for long periods of time, such as during the day when no one is home and through the night. Resist the urge to override the pre-programmed settings. Every time you do, you use more energy and may end up paying more on your energy bill.

- **CEILING FANS:** Used in combination with your air conditioner, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise your thermostat setting without reducing your comfort. The airflow produced by the ceiling fan creates a wind-chill effect, making you “feel” cooler. Be sure to turn the fan off when you're not in the room to save energy - ceiling fans cool people, not rooms.
- **SCHEDULE A HOME PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:** A Home Performance Evaluation with ENERGY STAR helps homeowners find hidden problems in their homes. This evaluation includes a comprehensive inspection of all systems in the home. Once the evaluation is complete, homeowners receive a report that identifies problems and recommends solutions.
- **SHADES AND DRAPES:** Close draperies or shades on south- and west-facing windows to reduce solar heat gain. Also, sun screens installed on the outside of windows reflect solar gain while allowing a view. Sun screens can be removed in the winter to let solar heat in.

By using just a few of energy-saving measures, you can protect our environment and make sure your utility bills aren't as high as the reading on the thermometer this summer.

If you would like additional information on energy incentives or any issue related to state government, please feel free to contact me. You can call my office at 266-7678, write me at P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53708, or contact me via email at Rep.Hebl@legis.state.wi.us.

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Focus on Energy
www.focusonenergy.com

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