

Debunking energy myths

Myth #1: It is not worth my time or money to seal small air leaks around my windows and doors, or to make sure my home is adequately insulated.

According to ENERGY STAR, air leaks around cracks and gaps throughout your home become the equivalent of leaving a window open all year long. Typical homeowners can save up to 10 percent on their total annual energy bill by sealing and insulating their home.

Myth #2: When I turn off electronics (like my TV, game console or computer) they stop drawing power from the outlet.

Even when turned off, most modern electronics consume a small amount of electricity if they're still plugged in. Chargers for mobile devices also consume electricity if plugged in, even when they are not actively charging the device. This wasted energy, called "phantom load," accounts for as much as 10 percent of a home's total electric use. The solution: unplug your electronics when you've finished using them. Using a power strip can help you conveniently unplug multiple devices at once, while newer "smart" power strips can automatically cut off phantom loads on their own.

Myth #3: Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) take forever to reach full brilliance, have inadequate light quality or unpleasant color and make no difference on my utility bill.

As with many products, CFLs vary in quality. Color and brightness differ across manufacturers and some bulbs simply work better than others. Looking for the ENERGY STAR symbol ensures that you're purchasing a high-quality product. Also, be sure to install CFLs in fixtures that remain on for long periods or that you use often to get the maximum energy savings out of your bulbs. In addition, specialty CFLs are available for applications such as spotlighting or bathroom vanity fixtures.

Customers should act now for Cold Weather Rule assistance

The Cold Weather Rule is in effect from October 15 to April 15 and applies to customers with a household income below certain levels. However, the customer's account must be current or the customer must enter into, and keep, a payment schedule.

Local agencies may be able to provide payment assistance. For assistance, call the Tri-Valley Opportunity Council at 1-866-264-3729.

If you are going to have trouble paying utility bills, contact us at 773-1163 to arrange a payment schedule. We'll try to help.

The Connector

East Grand Forks Water & Light

Public Power Week here Oct. 7-13

Public Power Week is a national, annual event sponsored in conjunction with the American Public Power Association (APPA), a service organization for community and state owned electric utilities.

2012 Public Power Week, October 7-13, is a chance for the East Grand Forks Water and Light to articulate why public power works in East Grand Forks.

The Water and Light Department employees strive to provide top-notch service to the residents of East Grand Forks. They know how vital electricity is for the community and continue to find ways to deliver it reliably and safely.

The Water and Light was created in 1909. Today it has 25 employees who work at our Distribution Service Center, Water Plant and Business Office. We have four substations that serve about 4,200 electric meters.

East Grand Forks Water & Light

YOUR HOMETOWN UTILITY SINCE 1909

Why give to HeatShare?

When you give to HeatShare, you are helping warm the lives of the elderly, disabled and others who have nowhere else to turn. HeatShare is a last resort for many who have no other resources available to safely get them and their families through the winter.

Administered by The Salvation Army, HeatShare is a voluntary program that helps the needy survive our long, Minnesota winters by providing funds for heating bills and heating-related repairs.

Who benefits from HeatShare?

- Senior citizens 55 years of age or older with low, fixed incomes and no alternate source of help.
- Those disabled by physical limitations and/or health problems, restricting their ability to maintain income to cover energy bills adequately.
- Those who have had an unexpected emergency within the last 12 months and as a result of the emergency cannot pay energy costs.
- Those who meet income guidelines and have received or applied for all other possible public funds.

Who supports HeatShare?

Hundreds in your community help with HeatShare • Your neighbors • Your friends • People in big cities and corporations • People in small towns and self-owned businesses.

And you can help give the gift of heat, too, by sending a tax deductible contribution with the form on the back of this brochure. HeatShare is one way a small gift of kindness can make a big difference in someone else's life • ***And you can make that difference!***

How else can HeatShare help?

- Energy Conservation and Education
- Budget Counseling
- Financial Assistance
- Family Counseling
- Social Service Information and Referrals

Your contribution will be used for those in need in East Grand Forks.



For financial assistance, call The Salvation Army at 800-842-7279.

For information about contributions, call: Salvation Army - DHQ 651-746-3542
www.thesalarmy.com

Yes, I want to contribute to HeatShare!

Yes! I want to give my neighbors the gift of heat this winter season.

I am making a one-time gift of:

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Signature _____

Utility _____

Account Number _____

Date _____

Please make check payable to HeatShare. Enclose your donation and this form along with your utility payment.

Your gift will be used to benefit those in need in East Grand Forks.

