

## **Ways to Save Money on Utilities**

To get the most out of your money, there are two things to bear in mind – efficiency and conservation. Efficiency is key; all appliances should run properly with all parts in working order to ensure that energy is not wasted. Conservation is also a significant factor. If it is not in use, make sure that it is turned off in order to save money – you should not have to pay for something that you are not using.

### **Water**

- Many are unaware of the fact that the water heater is the second biggest consumer of energy in the home; thus, water should be used with some consideration. Due to the significant extent of hot water employed by the dishwasher, it is more economical to wash the dishes by hand. In the case that this is not possible, make sure that there is always a full load in the dishwasher before use.
- Similarly, the washing machine should also be full before using because half loads will cost more or less the same as a full load – this is about getting the most out of your money. In addition, cold water should be used whenever possible.
- In regards to the dryer, you can save energy by drying a load one immediately after the other because the dryer is already hot.

### **Home Heating**

- Turn down the thermostat if you will be out of the home and before going to bed.
- Close the vents of the rooms that are not in use to concentrate the heat to the rooms that are in use. This way, the thermostat will not have to be as high in order to obtain a comfortable temperature.
- Weather strip all doors and windows as well as insulate the attic in order to best maintain the temperature that you desire.

### **Electricity**

- Turn off any inactive electricity (i.e. computer, lights, etc.) whenever possible.
- When shopping for any new appliances, keep in mind the Energy Guide Labels that is attached; this label is required by federal law. Look over this label to ensure that your purchase will be well worth it by checking to see if it is energy efficient.

Utilities are often higher than they should be due to the fact that it is often wasted. Keep in mind that utilities cost money and the little things will add up. Try to be as efficient and conservative as you possibly can in order to save yourself money.