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## Energy Saving Tips For Cold Weather

When forecasted temperatures drop to dangerous cold levels and include extremely cold wind chills, we would like to remind consumers of some energy saving tips to help keep energy bills more manageable:

- Set your thermostat no higher than 68 degrees and reduce the temperature a few degrees at night and when you aren't home. A programmable thermostat will help make this easier to accomplish and maximize efficiency.
- Limit household chores such as laundry and dishwashing during extremely cold periods. If you must utilize these appliances, wash clothes in cold water if possible, and set your dishwasher to air dry. Run clothes dryers on low or air dry.
- Check your furnace filter and ensure it is clean and replace it if dirty. Standard recommendations are to replace filters on furnaces once a month.
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- Make sure furnace, gas fireplace, and water heater vents are clear and free of debris.
- Adjust your humidity in your home, if possible. Moist air tends to feel warmer than drier air.
- Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing; running fans longer can pull heated air out of your home.
- During winter, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open when it is sunny to allow sunlight to enter your home and ensure all shades are closed at night to add additional insulation and reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.