



IT'S COLD **BE SMART**

Kinston Public Service officials are encouraging residents to take measures to cut down their energy use during cold weather, thereby saving money on their utility bills.

Did you know that more than 50 percent of annual energy costs come from your home's heating and cooling systems? Here are some tips on how you can take measures to cut down on your energy usage.

- Set your thermostat between 68° and 72°. Heat pumps operate differently than other types of heating systems, so follow the recommendations for your particular heating system.
- Check the filters in your air conditioning and heating systems monthly and change them as needed.
- Vacuum dust and lint from all air intakes and outlets. Clean filters allow air to move more freely and systems to work more efficiently.
- Set your water heater to 120°. Most manufacturers set the temperature at 140°, but many families operate comfortably at 120°. Not only does this save money, it also reduces the risk of hot water scalding.
- Install a low-flow shower head and limit showers to five minutes. Not only will this help reduce your energy consumption but will also reduce your water consumption.
- Refrain from using electric space heaters, as they can significantly increase your electric bill.
- Seal duct work and air leaks in your home.
- Seal off fireplaces when not in use.
- Seal doors and windows with caulking or weather-stripping.
- Add an insulation blanket to your water heater and insulate the pipes around it.
- Add more attic insulation.

By following these easy tips, yet often overlooked, you can make the most of your energy use.

Kinston Public Services
24-hour Customer Service
(252) 939-3282



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