

NEWS RELEASE

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Resolve to save energy and money in 2012 *Green Living: Energy-Saving Tips from Santee Cooper*

MONCKS CORNER, S.C. – According to the U.S. Department of Energy, making upgrades to your home to save energy can put 5-30 percent of your usual energy bill back into your pockets. January is a great time to evaluate your energy usage and make a resolution to save energy and money during 2012, and Santee Cooper can help.

“Make a plan to save money this year with easy, energy-saving solutions,” said Mike Poston, vice president of Retail Operations for the state-owned utility. “Saving energy doesn’t have to come with a high price tag. There are several things you can do to your home that will cost little money and can add up to big savings over the year.”

Give your home its yearly checkup by conducting a home energy assessment. Santee Cooper offers free, do-it-yourself home energy audits online at santecooper.com. The audit will help you outline areas where improvement is needed in your home and give you tips on how to save energy and money. A full audit takes 20-40 minutes or an EZ Audit takes about half that time.

You can also do a quick home assessment by reviewing a few specific places in each room of your home. Start by checking for drafts around windows, doors, pipes and air ducts leading into and out of your home. Once you’ve identified air leaks, weather stripping, caulk and door sweeps can alleviate air leaks around windows and doors. Adding insulation around ducts and pipes leading out of your home will help stop unwanted air flow. Sealing air leaks will not only cut down on your energy use, it will make your home feel warmer when it’s cold outside and cooler when it’s warm outside.

Check your lights and, if you haven’t already, consider switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). According to the U.S. Department of Energy, CFLs typically use 75 percent less energy than regular, inefficient incandescent bulbs. Plus, Energy Star-qualified CFLs last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and put out the same amount of light. You won’t save energy if you leave the lights on, though, so remember to flip the switch when you leave a room.

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Don't let phantom power overpower your energy bills. Check outlets to make sure you don't have appliances and chargers plugged in when they're not in use. Unplugging phone chargers, computers, monitors, printers, game consoles and household appliances, like your coffee maker, will save you money and energy because most of these items continue to use energy when plugged in but not in use.

For additional energy-saving tips to help you save money in 2012, visit www.reducetheuse.com.

Santee Cooper is South Carolina's state-owned electric and water utility, and the state's largest power producer. The ultimate source of electricity for 2 million South Carolinians, Santee Cooper is dedicated to being the state's leading resource for improving the quality of life for the people of South Carolina. For more information, visit www.santecooper.com.