



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KEEP YOUR COOL THIS SUMMER WITH ENERGY-SAVING TIPS**

JOPLIN, MO – July 17, 2017 – Summer is here, and temperatures are on the rise. Customers can keep their cool as the weather warms up by using a few of these energy-saving tips.

**Turn up your thermostat.** Set your air conditioner (AC) thermostat to the highest comfortable setting. You can save 2 to 3 percent for each degree you raise the setting. Use a ceiling fan to circulate cool air. Moving air will help the room feel more comfortable, but be sure to turn it off when you leave.

**Install a programmable thermostat.** Adjusting the thermostat 5 to 8 degrees can help save energy when you're away from home for several hours. A programmable thermostat lets you set it and forget it.

**Replace your air conditioner filter once a month.** Dirty filters restrict airflow, making your AC work harder and significantly increasing energy use. Use the arrival of your electric statement as your reminder to change your filter.

**Have your cooling equipment inspected or consider an upgrade.** HVAC is the largest energy user in your home, so be sure your system is operating efficiently. When it's time to replace your old unit, choose an energy efficient model. Check for available Empire rebates before you buy.

**Seal the leaks.** Weatherstrip or caulk to reduce air loss around doors and windows, cover your outlets, and seal your ductwork. Leaky ductwork can account for as much as 25 percent of your cooling cost. And, be sure to keep doors and windows closed when the AC is running.

**Complete heat- and/or steam-producing activities after 8 p.m. or before 8 a.m.** to reduce the load on your AC. This includes laundry, dishwashing, cooking, and showers or baths. Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. For meals, use your microwave or outdoor grill when possible.

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**Close your drapes or shades** on windows that face the sun (east in the morning, south during sunlit hours, west from noon to sunset). Exterior shading, including trees or awnings, is the most effective, but interior shading will help.

**Install energy efficient light bulbs.** Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs, especially in your most used fixtures. They use about 75 percent less energy, put off less heat, and can last 10 – 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

**Turn off unused electronics and plug leaking energy.** Most TVs, DVRs, chargers, computers, and other electronics use electricity even when they are switched off. Use a power strip with surge protection to provide a hard shut-off. Although these standby losses are only a few watts each, their continuous consumption can add up quickly.

**Take charge of your energy use with our online Energy Calculators.** Find out where your energy dollars are going and get cost-saving recommendations based on your home's specific features. Log on to [www.empiredistrict.com](http://www.empiredistrict.com) and click on Energy Solutions.

**Take advantage of the Average Payment Plan (APP).** APP takes the surprise out of your electric bill by spreading your estimated annual usage into equal payments. To learn more, visit our Customer Service page and click on Billing and Payment Information.

**Talk with Empire** if you are having trouble paying your electric bill. When temps rise, so does energy use. If you are unable to pay part of or all of your electric bill, contact Empire at 800-206-2300 to speak with a customer service representative about payment options that may be available.

Based in Joplin, Missouri, The Empire District Electric Company is a subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co. and headquarters for the Liberty Utilities Central Region, providing electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater service to approximately 320,000 customers across six states. A subsidiary of the company provides fiber optic services. For more information regarding Empire, visit [www.empiredistrict.com](http://www.empiredistrict.com). For more information about Liberty Utilities, visit [www.libertyutilities.com](http://www.libertyutilities.com).

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