



News Release

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Contact:

Michael Bacich - Assistant General Manager Customer Relations/Marketing
(951) 826-5422

Save Energy, Stay Cool in Summer Heat With These Tips and Programs

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Riverside, Calif. – As summer officially begins and triple digit temperatures begin to turn up the heat in southern California, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) is reminding customers to practice those simple steps that will help them stay cool, conserve energy, and ensure the stability of both the local and state power grids.

Some of those easy steps include setting thermostats to 78 degrees or higher; keeping window blinds closed; cooling off with fans; turning off unneeded lighting, computers, and electronics; and waiting to use appliances like dish and clothes washers until the evening or early morning hours. Continued wise energy use through easy steps like these can lead to big savings. In fact, for every two degrees a thermostat is increased cooling costs are reduced by about five percent.

“It’s amazing how making just a few adjustments can really add up during the high energy use months,” said RPU General Manager David H. Wright. “When thousands of us make those steps at the same time, it reduces our overall energy demands and helps avoid service disruptions.”

A number of Riverside businesses are among the utility’s “Power Partners” who have agreed to reduce or offset their energy usage during peak demand times and when RPU or the state’s power grid operators foresee issues with providing enough energy to meet demands.

Riverside residents can also beat the heat and reduce their energy consumption by going to local malls, pool facilities, or the city’s Cool Centers located at designated libraries, parks and community centers. A complete list of Riverside’s Cool Centers and their hours of operation can be found at ReadyRiverside.com or by contacting the city’s Call Center at 826-5311.

In addition to using energy wisely, RPU electric customers can take advantage of a variety of programs the utility offers which provide rebates for making homes and businesses more energy efficient. Among them, the Energy Star rebate program which offers rebates on qualifying energy efficient Energy Star rated products like: up to \$200 for a new refrigerator; \$50 for dishwashers; \$50 for room air conditioners; and \$25 for ceiling fans (limit 4). Other program rules and restrictions apply.

When participating in multiple rebates at one time, RPU’s Whole House program allows customers to bundle their conservation measures together and receive increased rebate amounts, up to 250 percent more. Details on all of RPU’s energy and water conservation rebate programs are available online at GreenRiverside.com, or through the Call Center.

For additional information about Riverside Public Utilities follow us on Facebook and on Twitter @RPUnews

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 106,000 metered electric customers and up to 64,000 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com

www.GreenRiverside.com

www.BlueRiverside.com