



## **Conservation a Key to Keeping Rates Reasonable**

Washington electric cooperatives began investing in conservation efforts back when the term “green” referred to money, not clean energy. Conservation is a component of most energy bills in the state legislature and the U.S. Congress addressing climate change. It’s a cost-effective way to reduce demand for energy, lessening the need to develop further resources thereby reducing members’ electric bills and our carbon footprint.

“At Peninsula Light Company we began offering conservation programs in 1982. Our board and staff recognize the long-term benefits to our members.” said Jafar Taghavi, CEO. “Implementing energy efficiencies will pay off immediately and for years to come for the members of our co-op.”

Since 1982 Penlight has voluntarily invested \$9.1 million to save over 131 million kWh of energy. Nationwide the electric utility industry has made energy efficiency improvements in the last 2 decades that have saved nearly 750 billion kWh or enough electricity to power 69 million homes for a year. Additionally, the requirements outlined in voter-passed Initiative 937 mandate that PenLight perform a 10-year forecast to identify its achievable conservation goals, beginning in 2010. Every 2 years PenLight must evaluate its targets and update its 10-year assessment.

Conservation efforts also help reduce the cost of meeting future load growths. As populations increase, the amount of energy needed to serve the population grows too. The cost of energy to meet future load growth will not be fulfilled by the BPA at the same rates that this region has become accustomed to from the benefit of the federal hydropower system. Further complicating the rate equation is the cost involved to meet the requirements of Initiative 937 for specific renewable energy to be integrated into PenLight’s power portfolio.

PenLight has offered the following programs to its members. Many of the incentives are partially funded by wholesale power marketer, the Bonneville Power Administration.

- BPA Weatherization Program (1983-1996)
- Super Good Cents (1987-1990)
- Showerheads and aerators (1990s)
- Energy Smart Design – lighting, heating and thermal shell improvements for commercial businesses (1990’s)
- Compact Fluorescent Light bulb (CFL) give away 40,000+ light bulbs (2001/2002)
- CFL give-aways (on-going at local events to promote CFLs)
- Water Heaters rebate (current)

- 5 free CFLs mailed to 23,000 residential members – 115,000 bulbs (2008)
- Inefficient refrigerator recycle \$30 rebate (2009)
- Low-flow showerhead giveaway (2009)
- Duct sealing for manufactured homes (2009)

In addition to residential conservation programs offered PenLight has worked cooperatively with commercial members to improve energy efficiency in office buildings, including lighting, HVAC, and windows. In 2007, PenLight partnered with the Washington Corrections Center for Women in Purdy to update lighting and HVAC controls, which is estimated to result in a savings of 1,313,337 kWh per year

A few conservation tips for around the house that could help lower your electric bill.

In the Laundry Room....

- ✓ If your clothes dryer has a moisture sensor, use it to avoid over-drying your laundry. Or air-dry your loads on racks or a clothing line!
- ✓ Use the cold-water cycle with cold-water detergents doing laundry whenever possible.
- ✓ Wash and dry full loads of laundry. If you need to run a small load, choose the lowest water setting that is appropriate.

In the Kitchen....

- ✓ Recommended temperatures for freezers and refrigerators are 37-40°F for the 'fridge and 5°F for the freezer. If you have a long-term freezer that is a stand-alone, it is recommended to keep it at 0°F. Any colder than these ranges and energy is wasted.
- ✓ When running your dishwasher, wait until it is full. And skip the heat-dry cycle for more savings. If you don't have an air-dry switch, just stop the dishwasher after the final rinse cycle and prop the door open a little.
- ✓ Don't run the exhaust fan continuously after cooking – give it 20 minutes to clear the air and then turn it off.

In Your Living Spaces....

- ✓ Many appliances continue to draw a small amount of power when they are switched off. These “phantom” loads occur in most appliances, such as VCRs, televisions, stereos, computers, and kitchen appliances. In the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off.
- ✓ If you haven't already, swap out all your incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- ✓ It's an oldie but a goodie: Turn off the juice when not in use! Another option to turning off all the lights in a room that you are not using is to install photo cells or occupancy sensors to turn off lights when they are not needed.

- ✓ When it's cold out, keep your window coverings open during the day to allow the sun to help heat your home and then close them at night to retain heat. Then when it when the summer heat comes, just reverse the process to keep your home cooler.