

CITY OF



WASHINGTON

301 C Street, P.O. Box 296, Washington, KS 66968

PRESS RELEASE

ENERGY CONSUMPTION AWARENESS

With summer in full swing, now is the time to be aware of the energy consumption you use.

The City of Washington contracts for a firm power allotment. Any energy requirements in excess of its contracted base load are purchased from the open market, where the price per kilowatt changes on an hourly basis. Power plant employees monitor the price in order to ensure that the City can buy it cheaper than they can produce it.

Did you know that the peak hours of energy consumption are between 1 and 9 p.m.? These are also the hours when electric prices are the highest.

During peak hours in the summer, the demand for energy goes up, and costs can be much higher than normal. For example, on June 24, 2009, the rate soared to 9.5 cents per kilowatt between 8 and 9 pm. This is still cheaper than the City can produce it, but is very costly to the City as well as to the end consumer.

For every kilowatt that can be shaved off during the peak hours, the City can save not only the cost of the kilowatts, but a \$3.00 per kilowatt demand charge that the City has to pay, which ultimately gets passed on to the utility customer, as part of the fuel adjustment.

There are several ways you can lower your energy consumption, thereby reducing the City's costs, and ultimately your own energy costs.

- If the temperature is 90 degrees or above during peak hours (1-9 pm), avoid running any large appliances such as clothes dryer, dishwasher, etc., instead running them early in the morning or late at night.
- Shut off air conditioning to rooms that are not being used.
- Turn the thermostat on your air conditioner up one or two degrees.
- Turn the setting on your refrigerator up one setting.
- Check the seals on your refrigerator doors. If they are leaking, replace them!
- Unplug your tv/dvd/vcr's. They continue to draw as much as 40% power even when turned off.
- Install fluorescent light bulbs.
- Install a programmable thermostat.

- Seal air leaks with weather stripping.
- Turning off lights in unoccupied rooms.
- Shut off computers and monitors when not in use.
- Unplug any appliances not in use because they still draw electricity even when they're off.
- Set your ceiling fans so that they blow downward (this is generally counterclockwise, but may not be the same in all fans).

If every household avoided using just their clothes dryer during peak hours, it would substantially reduce the peak demand.

By reducing your electric consumption, not only are you conserving energy, but you are saving money!