

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

December 30, 2010

Dear Residents,

Progress Energy Florida periodically releases a monthly article as part of their **“Save The Watts”** campaign. The January, 2011 article provides some helpful tips on what you can do to stay warm, how you can save money on heating costs, and how to receive a no-cost **Progress Energy Florida Home Energy Check** and learn more than 100 energy-saving tips.

Save The Watts Campaign

January, 2011

When the summer heat subsides, many agree that Florida is home to a relatively comfortable climate. However when temperatures across the Sunshine State dip to unusually frigid lows, many Floridians try to stay in their comfort zone by turning up the heat. As a utility that has helped its customers save more than \$1 billion in energy costs since 1981, Progress Energy Florida encourages its customers to stay comfortable the cool way – through increased energy efficiency.

Consider that, when the average temperature is 20 degrees lower than what is typical, maintaining a home’s internal temperature at 68 degrees may cost an average residential customer with an 1850-square-foot, single family home about \$10 more per day. Individual customers’ bills may be higher or lower depending on a number of factors including: home and family size, heating system efficiency, insulation level, and temperature setting.

This increase in energy use is largely due to the fact that the equipment installed in most Floridians’ homes is more efficient at cooling than it is at heating.

Fortunately, there are a number of ways Florida residents can save energy and money when it’s cold outside.

Begin by checking your thermostat. Progress Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 to 70 degrees when it’s cold out. For every degree the temperature is set below 70, customers can save up to 10 percent on the heating portion of their energy bills.

Next, determine the setting of your water heater. This is one of the largest energy consumers in most homes. By adjusting the thermostat from 140 degrees to 120, customers can save up to \$85 a year in energy costs.

Progress Energy wants its customers to remain as comfortable as possible when it’s cold out. However, it’s important to recognize that increased comfort can come at an increased cost. For example, a 1,500-watt resistance heater running 24/7 can cost up to \$149 per month to operate. Keep costs down while staying cozy by opting for a blanket whenever possible.

These are just a few of the many things customers can do to save energy and money when it’s cold outside. Progress Energy is pleased to offer its customers additional, customized, energy-saving advice through its Home Energy Check. In addition to helping customers learn how to maximize their energy savings, this no-cost service – which can be completed online, over the phone or in person – is the only way to determine a customer’s eligibility for valuable rebates toward energy-efficient improvements.

To sign up for a no-cost Progress Energy Florida Home Energy Check and to learn more than 100 energy-saving tips, visit www.SaveTheWatts.com or call 1-877-364-9003.

Please consider taking advantage of the no cost Home Energy Check. There is no obligation and it could save you some money.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker,
President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

cc: Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods POA