Stay cool this summer with MLGW’s tips and tools

Don’t let rising temperatures blow your utility budget. Take control of your summer cooling bills by following these money-saving energy tips.

- Set thermostats at 78 degrees and use fans to circulate air.
- Install a programmable thermostat to regulate temperatures when no one is at home.
- Check air conditioning filters every month when your utility bill arrives. Look for dust build-up that can restrict the airflow and lead to increased costs.
- Keep blinds and curtains closed on sunny days to block outside heat.

To learn more about reducing your summer energy costs, request MLGW’s “Energy Savers” guide by phone at 544-MLGW (6549) or online at www.mlgw.com. MLGW also offers an online energy survey called “Home e-Valuation” for customers with Internet access. You can find it and many other helpful energy-saving tools on your “My Account” page at www.mlgw.com.

Summer 2011 – C.H. Nash Museum and Chucalissa have resumed Family Day Activities for summer on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. For the regular admission price, visitors can participate in the Drumming Across Cultures program, tour the Hands-on Archaeology Lab, participate in a Scavenger Hunt in the Museum Hall and create a ceramic pinch pot. No reservations needed for groups of less than 10. Call 785-3160 or visit www.memphis.edu/chucalissa for more information.

July 30 – 14th Annual SportsBall Gala benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Memphis at Minglewood Hall, 1555 Madison Ave., 7 p.m. to midnight. For more information, call 323-5440.

Save on home energy improvements with IHEE

Single pane windows, sparse attic insulation, door gaps and a host of other issues contribute to lost heating and air conditioning that drive up your energy costs. Unfortunately, household budgets often don’t allow for the expense of making the needed home energy efficiency improvements. Thanks to the In-Home Energy Evaluation Program (IHEE), jointly sponsored by MLGW and TVA, homeowners can get reimbursed for a portion of their qualifying home improvement costs.

Here’s how it works:
- Call 1-866-441-1430, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., to arrange for an In-Home Energy Evaluation by a TVA-certified Evaluator.
  - A $150 fee is payable to the Evaluator at time of service (no cash; checks payable to ‘Energy Right”).
  - The house must be at least one year old; new construction is not eligible.

Call 811 before you dig

Don’t risk hitting a gas line, disrupting neighborhood service, and facing potential fines and repair costs. Before you begin a digging project, contact Tennessee One Call at 811 to request that a professional locating crew mark the underground utility lines on your property. The service is free, and it is federally mandated.
Special Assistance for recent storm and flood victims:

TVA has implemented expedited processes for qualified residential customers to receive financial incentives for energy improvements made during disaster recovery for properties in federally declared disaster areas. Call 1-877-634-9442 to get a program information package.

New video highlights MLGW’s earthquake preparedness efforts

For the past several years, MLGW has taken a leading role in local earthquake preparation through its proactive seismic retrofitting efforts. Seismic retrofitting is the modification of existing structures to make them more resistant to seismic activity, ground motion or soil failure due to earthquakes.

To illustrate MLGW’s efforts as a company, MLGW has produced a series of videos titled “Structurally Sound,” that highlight the utility’s efforts to brace its system against earthquake damage. Customers with YouTube access can view the videos at www.youtube.com/mlgwwaystosave or request to receive a DVD by mail by contacting MLGW at 528-4557 or e-mailing corpcomm@mlgw.org.

MLGW hosts Natural Gas Awareness Day to spotlight gas safety

As a tribute to “Safe Digging Month” in April, MLGW hosted a Natural Gas Public Awareness Day on April 29 at MLGW Community Offices and several libraries in Shelby County. Employees from MLGW’s natural gas departments talked to customers and distributed information concerning natural gas safety, gas pipeline awareness, digging safely and natural disaster preparedness.

Gas safety is especially relevant in the springtime, when many homeowners and contractors engage in digging, excavating, landscaping and gardening. Recent natural gas accidents around the country and the ensuing news coverage placed more focus on the importance of natural gas and pipeline safety public awareness.

For more information about safe digging practices mandated by Tennessee state law, visit www.tennessee811.com.

Plus-1

Plus-1 provides one-time assistance for eligible residents who are unable to make their utility bill payment because of unforeseen circumstances. Simply make a pledge by completing the form on our website at mlgw.com or call 544-MLGW (6549) to request a form via mail. You are welcome to make a one-time donation or to have any amount you indicate added to your monthly utility bill. MLGW sends all donations to MIFA which, in turn, administers the program.