

Connections

For BGE Residential Customers September 2007

BGE Smart Energy Savers ProgramsSM

BGE is pleased to announce the following conservation initiatives to help customers conserve energy and save on their electric bills:



ENERGY STAR[®] CFL Price Mark-downs

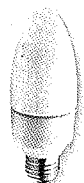
A CFL is a highly efficient light bulb, using about 75% less energy and lasting up to 10 times longer in comparison to standard incandescent bulbs. Most CFLs can replace a standard incandescent bulb and fit in the existing incandescent light fixtures. An average U.S. household has about 40 light bulb sockets, so if one household replaces 20 light bulbs, it can save up to \$1,300 in electricity costs over the CFLs' lifetime!

Change a Light!

The ENERGY STAR Change a Light Challenge is October 3rd. Help change the world, one light — one energy-saving step — at a time. You can show your commitment by pledging to replace at least one light in your home with one that has earned the ENERGY STAR. Visit BGESmartEnergy.com for more details.



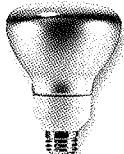
Spiral



Candle



Globe



Reflector

The initial purchase price of a CFL is higher than a standard incandescent bulb of the same output. However, this cost may be quickly recouped in energy savings assuming average lamp use. To help offset the initial cost, BGE is partnering with local area retailers to sponsor ENERGY STAR CFLs at a lower cost. Purchase a single bulb and save \$1.50 or buy a multi-pack and save \$3.00. The price mark-down will be taken at the check-out register, so customers can immediately benefit. Visit BGESmartEnergy.com for a list of participating retailers. Remember, look for the ENERGY STAR logo.

ENERGY STAR Home Appliance Rebates

There's never been a better time to start saving energy than right now. To encourage customers to purchase energy saving appliances, BGE is offering rebates on ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators, freezers, and clothes washers.

ENERGY STAR qualified products meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). ENERGY STAR appliances have been demonstrated to use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment.

This offer is open to all BGE residential electric customers. Rebates range from \$50 to \$75. The rebates start August 20, 2007. Customers must provide their BGE account number, sales receipt, and other pertinent information with their mail-in rebate application. Customers can obtain the mail-in rebate application at participating stores, at BGESmartEnergy.com or by calling 1-800-845-6195, M-F, 9-5 EST.



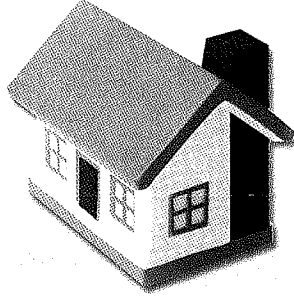
Respect the cone zone.



Energy Assistance is Available for Limited-Income Customers

If you need help or think you will need help paying your utility bills this winter, now's the time to check into financial assistance programs. By completing an easy application from the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP), limited-income households may qualify for assistance (in the form of energy grants or bill credits) that does not have to be repaid. Here are a few OHEP programs that may help to offset the cost of home heating and cooling.

- **Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP)** - Is a state program designed to help limited-income customers pay the electric portion of their bills. The program provides bill-payment assistance and arrearage retirement.
- **Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)** - Provides a grant for qualifying customers and is available once each heating season. However, customers may apply any time during the year. Call **1-800-352-1446**.
- **Utility Service Protection Program (USPP)** - Provides a means for limited-income customers, who qualify and comply with the payment terms of the USPP agreement, to protect their utility service. (**NOTE: In order to qualify for USPP, you must participate in MEAP.**)



For more information on these programs, including eligibility requirements, and other energy assistance programs, call OHEP at **1-800-352-1446**.

DANGER: Don't Tamper with Gas and Electricity!

Tampering with utility lines or meters, or installing illegal connections is a crime and can create dangerous conditions for building occupants and neighbors. If you know of or suspect a gas or electric theft, call our BGE Energy Theft Hotline at **1-800-417-0294**. You do not have to give your name - all information will be kept confidential.

A \$90 fee will be charged where tampering is confirmed. Customers will also be responsible for the service used and the cost of repairs when the tampering causes damage to BGE property. If utility equipment has been tampered with or if utility service is unsafe, it may be disconnected without notice.



Caulk and weatherstrip any holes, cracks or crevices around the foundation, windows, doors and other openings.

Turn pennies into dollars with **Penny Round Up.**

To register call **410-685-0123**.

IN THE COMMUNITY

BGE Sponsors Solar Decathlon

The Solar Decathlon is an unparalleled opportunity to educate future leaders in the process of integrated design; to educate the public about environmentally sound, sustainable construction; and to promote the role of efficiency and solar technologies in achieving energy independence. BGE is pleased to sponsor the University of Maryland in the 2007 Solar Decathlon. The event is organized by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

The University of Maryland's entry in the Solar Decathlon - known as LEAFHouse - embraces the Chesapeake Bay watershed context for a smart, adaptable, resource-efficient home powered by renewable energy. The house demonstrates the design savvy, both traditional and 21st century, that makes solar power an integral part of a sustainable lifestyle. LEAFHouse celebrates nature's abundance while having a light touch. Visit solarteam.org for additional information.

**Respect
the cone zone.**



- Slow down when you see signs about a road crew or see cones set up
- Focus on the situation
- Follow the directions (by people, cones or signs)