



Stoughton Utilities

600 South Fourth Street
P.O. Box 383
Stoughton, WI 53589-0383

Serving Electric, Water & Wastewater Since 1886

News Release

Stoughton Utilities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2012

Contact: Brian Hoops, Utilities Office & Information Systems Supervisor

Take Simple Steps Today to Stay Warm, Save Energy All Winter

Real winter weather is expected to return to the upper Midwest this winter, according to the Farmers' Almanac – but Stoughton residents can keep energy bills in check by taking steps now to improve heating efficiency.

“Fortunately, paying attention to a few details now can help keep homes warm all winter,” said Robert Kardasz, Utilities Director at Stoughton Utilities.

Energy costs for heating and cooling make up more than 40 percent of home energy expenses, on average, according to the Energy Information Administration. These are costs that can be managed through home winterization and simple energy controls.

Stoughton Utilities recommends the following winterizing steps:

- Replace the air filter on the home furnace. If needed, schedule a maintenance appointment with a local heating contractor.
- Clear heating vents throughout the home, making sure that furniture or other items aren't placed in front of or blocking vents.
- Check for air leaks, which can significantly impact heating costs. For example, on a windy day, run a hand or carry a lit incense stick along doors, windows and vents to locate air leaks. Use rope caulk along any

joints where air is coming through. Remove any window air conditioning units and store them for the winter, if possible.

- Consider the home's insulation needs, and if needed, add insulation in the attic. It's typically less expensive to insulate the attic than the walls.

Next, put in place home energy controls that save electricity and money, including:

- Install and use a programmable thermostat, which can be set to automatically lower the temperature during the day when no one is home, and overnight, when warm blankets serve as a less expensive alternative to turning up the heat. Turning the temperature down by 10 degrees at night uses about 10 percent less energy.
- Open curtains or drapes to let in the sun's heat during the day. Close them at night to trap heat inside.
- Use Home Energy Suite, a free online tool provided by Stoughton Utilities, to create a customized energy usage report, to explore why a bill may have changed year to year, and to identify more ways to save energy. Go to www.stoughtonutilities.com and click the "Home Energy Suite" icon.

For more information, contact Stoughton Utilities at (608) 873-3379 or visit www.stoughtonutilities.com.

###

Founded in 1886, Stoughton Utilities serves electric customers in Stoughton and the surrounding area, and wastewater and water customers in Stoughton.