



# Make the Pittsburgh Region Even Cooler in March 2010: Great ways to save energy and save money on your home heating bill!

Every year, people across the U.S. waste huge amounts of energy heating things up unnecessarily, and that wasted energy translates directly into a loss of our hard-earned cash and more global warming.

- **Turn Your Furnace Thermostat Down Two Degrees**

According to the EPA, you can save up to 6 percent on your energy bills when you turn your furnace thermostat down by two degrees. This action is easy – anyone can do it. Add to your savings by turning your thermostat down while you're asleep or away from home! Taking this simple action will prevent up to 400 pounds of heat-trapping gases per year. This would be equivalent to planting 17 trees in your neighborhood.

- **Install a Programmable Thermostat**

Instead of manually adjusting your thermostat every day, you can install a programmable thermostat to help you. This device will automatically adjust temperatures according to a pre-set schedule, which allows you the freedom to save energy and money without thinking about it. Programmable thermostats are available at most home improvement stores, for \$40- \$100. That investment is easily returned by lower heating bills, and Duquesne Light has a rebate program that may defer \$65 of that cost. Check the rebate section at [www.wattchoices.com](http://www.wattchoices.com). By using a programmable thermostat to reduce temperatures by 10°F for at least eight hours a day, one household in Pittsburgh can avoid creating about 15,000 pounds of heat-trapping gases over the lifetime of the thermostat. That's equivalent to taking 1 ½ cars off the road.

- **Get Your Furnace Professionally Serviced**

Furnaces that are not properly maintained can operate up to 50 percent less well than they should, which costs much more than necessary. You can improve the efficiency, and extend the lifespan of your system, save money, and reduce your impact on global warming by getting your furnace professionally serviced by your local home heating contractor. Service costs \$70-\$100 and should include:

- ✓ Tests for carbon monoxide;
- ✓ Cleaning of the air filter, motor, fan, and pilot safety system; and
- ✓ Checks of all major components, and any necessary adjustments.

More info at: [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=heat\\_cool.pr\\_maintenance](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=heat_cool.pr_maintenance)

- **Track Your Progress**

Go to our website ([www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com](http://www.theblackandgoldcitygoesgreen.com)) and report your actions so we can measure how much we're all cutting our heat-trapping gases. No computer? No problem. Call us at 412-258-6680 or fill in one of the postcards available throughout the city.