RESOLVE TO BE MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT THIS WINTER

With the calendar flipping over to a brand new year, many of us have taken on New Year’s resolutions. Lose weight. Eat healthier. Get a better job.

While some resolutions are more achievable than others, here’s one you can conquer this winter with minimal effort: Be more energy-efficient.

Follow these simple, no-cost tips and you’ll be well on your way to saving both energy and money:

- Close the door behind you as you enter or leave your home.
- Adjust your thermostat down a couple of degrees in the winter. Lower it to 55-65° at night and while you are away from home for extended periods of time.
- Arrange your furniture to ensure you are sitting near interior walls rather than drafty exterior walls. Make sure your draperies and furniture are not blocking heating vents.
- Keep fireplace doors and dampers closed when the fireplace is not in use.
- Wear sweaters, sweatshirts, socks and/or shoes in your home during the winter.
- Add blankets to your bed.

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO BE MORE EFFICIENT

In the winter, drapes and curtains are more than window treatments. They’re also great energy savers.

Heat your home on sunny days by keeping curtains open on the windows facing south and west. The natural sunlight also means you won’t have to turn on as many lights, saving even more energy (and money).

In the evening, close the curtains to help keep in the heat, so you’re less likely to crank up the thermostat.

Want to make your window treatments even more energy-efficient? Install insulated curtains. In the winter, these four-layered curtains help heated inside air from being cooled or escaping outside. In addition, these thicker, more insulated curtains help dampen outside noise for added comfort and privacy.

Letting the sun shine in can do more than lift your spirits during the winter. Visit lge-ku.com for additional tips to help you be more energy efficient.

THE POWER OF GIVING

Being part of the community means more than meeting the energy needs of the people we serve. It also means doing our part to take care of those in need in the communities we serve.

That’s what the Power of One, our annual employee-giving campaign, is all about.

Our fall pledge drive raised $1,705,000, marking the eighth consecutive year employee donations have topped $1 million. It also marks the highest amount in the 10-year history of the combined campaign.

The funding raised during the 2014 Power of One campaign will be allocated to more than 25 nonprofit organizations across our service territory, including United Way agencies that serve the needs of those living in Virginia.

Nearly 70 percent of our employees participate in the companies’ annual giving campaign through payroll deduction, more than twice the national average for employee participation in charitable giving.

Beyond financial contributions, our employees also volunteer countless hours each year to serve those in need. We couldn’t be prouder of the way our employees demonstrate their commitment to the communities we serve.

Sign up for paperless billing when you sign in or register your account at my.lge-ku.com.
In most houses, the kitchen is a major hub of activity. It’s also a source of serious energy use. Here are a few tips to help you save energy as you cook.

- **Use the right pan size.** If you use a pan that is just 2” smaller than the burner, more than 40% of the heat produced is wasted.
- **Prepare double portions.** It will save you time and energy by freezing the leftovers for a future meal.
- **Keep oven racks clear.** This allows optimum air and heat flow. Avoid placing foil on the racks and, when possible, stagger multiple pans.
- **Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator before cooking.** You use less energy to cook the food if it’s already thawed.
- **The type of cooking pan makes a difference.** Copper-bottom pans heat faster on the stove-top. Glass or ceramic pans will allow you to reduce the oven temperature 25° and cook foods just as quickly.
- **Turn off the heat a bit early.** Turn the burner off two to three minutes early and turn off the oven 15 minutes early. (Keep the oven door closed.) The residual heat means you will save energy while your food continues to cook.

Winter weather can present its share of challenges — frigid temperatures, high winds, icy roads, and frozen pipes to name a few.

It also presents some real safety concerns, especially where energy is involved. Here are a few guidelines and precautions for staying safe throughout the winter.

- Snow, ice and wind make power lines vulnerable to damage. If you see a downed line, **STAY AWAY.** Always assume any downed wire is energized and **CALL US IMMEDIATELY.** And always be careful when clearing fallen tree limbs and debris after a storm.
- **If you’re using a portable generator:**
  - Only operate it outside.
  - Make sure it is properly vented.
  - Never refuel it while it is operating.
- Prepare an emergency kit for use in the event of a winter power outage that includes a battery-powered radio, flashlights for everyone in the family, fresh batteries for any devices, first-aid kit, and over-the-counter and prescription medications. A complete list of essential emergency kit supplies can be found at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

On Presidents Day, which is Monday, February 16, our customer service center and call centers will be closed while our Customer Service employees receive training so they can continue to provide outstanding service to you. Your bill will not be due on this day, but you’ll still be able to view your bill on our secure website or use our automated telephone system to learn your due date or amount due. And if you wish to make a payment, you can sign in to your online account or select the one-time payment option at lge-ku.com or call 1-800-981-0600 and press 1-2-3. You can also pay by mail or use Auto Pay. For a complete list of bill pay options, visit lge-ku/ways_to_pay.asp.

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**ODP Contact Information**

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