

LINES

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Assistance Increases for Winter Energy Bills

Pepco customers having problems paying their energy bills can look for extra help this winter.

Recently approved federal legislation increases the average assistance amount for participants of the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) from \$355 to \$550 per family in 2009.

The Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs administers MEAP for the state. Maryland customers seeking help should call their local energy assistance office for details:

Montgomery Cty: 240-777-4450
Prince George's Cty: 301-909-6300

Keeping Maryland Safe from Fire

Pepco's Emergency Services Partnership Program donated 800 smoke alarms to both the Montgomery and Prince George's Counties' Fire and Emergency Medical Services in November. It's part of our commitment to fire safety education for customers.

Each fire department also received 30 special units specifically designed for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Over the past four years, Pepco has donated 5,000 smoke alarms for distribution to Maryland residents.

Our Commitment to Bettering the Lives of Others



Linda Jo Smith coordinates the Pepco employee toy drive. Toys are distributed through St. Patrick's Catholic Church to children throughout Pepco's service territory.

Pepco is committed to working in the community to make a difference in the lives of our customers. In 2008, nearly 300 Pepco employees contributed more than 5,000 hours of volunteer community service.

These efforts included participation in major community events such as the March of Dimes Walk for Babies, the American Heart Association Heart Walk, senior citizen events and Food 4 Families among others.

Over the past 11 months, Pepco also has contributed more than \$1.7 million to community organizations in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

We've dedicated many resources to support local schools and colleges throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia, providing scholarships, mentors and presentations about Pepco programs and providing volunteers for Career Days and other events.

Pepco is dedicated to being a good corporate citizen as we work to support community needs and improve the quality of life of the communities we serve.

Use Caution When Decorating for the Holidays

Many people celebrate the winter holidays by cooking, entertaining and decorating. Stay safe by following the National Fire Protection Association's tips for holiday decorating:

- buy flame-retardant, flame-resistant or non-combustible materials whenever possible,
- only purchase lights and electrical decorations with UL, CSA or ETL-SEMCO certification marks,
- inspect new and previously-bought light strings – replace damaged items before plugging them in,
- keep children and pets away from light strings and decorations, and
- always turn off decorations and light strings before leaving home or going to bed.

For more fire prevention and decorating safety information, visit nfpa.org.

Use Candles with Care

Candles add to the warmth and festivity of holiday celebrations. Unfortunately, candles cause thousands of home fires annually through misuse, resulting in property damage, injury and even death.

The National Candle Safety Association offers the following tips for keeping your home and family safe:

- never leave a burning candle unattended – extinguish it before going to bed or leaving home,
- never place a burning candle near something that can catch fire, and
- keep burning candles out of the reach of children or pets.

Pepco suggests using battery operated candles – they're much safer. Learn more at candle-safety.org.

PHI Headquarters Building Wins Energy Efficiency Award

Edison Place, the headquarters building of Pepco Holdings, Inc., has earned the prestigious 2008 ENERGY STAR Award for energy efficiency.

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy that promotes energy-efficient products and practices nationally.

Edison Place, 701 Ninth Street, N.W., is a 10-story office building with 400,037 square feet of space. It features energy-efficient light bulbs and ballasts, occupancy sensors in all offices and most conference rooms, and energy-efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

These measures have saved more than 770,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity this year. That's enough electricity to power about 60 average size single-family homes for a year.



Did You Know?

I've heard that LEDs are more efficient for holiday lighting, but they cost more than traditional lights. Are they worth it?

Yes. Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are small light sources illuminated by the movement of electrons through a semiconductor material – and they are worth the extra money.

According to ENERGY STAR®, LEDs are very energy efficient when producing individual colors, such as those used in many holiday lights. LEDs use up to 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs to produce the same amount of light.

The amount of electricity consumed by just one 7-watt incandescent bulb could power 140 LEDs – enough to light two 24-foot strings of lights.

Still not convinced? ENERGY STAR qualified LEDs are worth the extra money because they:

- last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent strands,
- are cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire,
- don't have filaments or glass so they are much more durable and shock-resistant than other light strings,
- come with a three-year warranty, and
- will absorb their initial cost after about one to two years of use.

Learn more about LEDs by visiting energystar.gov.