



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

115 West Washington St.  
Suite 1500 South  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
[uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov)  
[www.IN.gov/OUCC](http://www.IN.gov/OUCC)

Toll-free: 1-888-441-2494  
Voice/TDD: 1-317-232-2494  
Fax: 1-317-232-5923

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Contact: Anthony Swinger  
1-317-233-2747

## Simple Steps Can Help Reduce Electric Bills: OUCC Offers Useful Information

Record heat is a recipe for high summer electric bills. However, there are steps consumers can follow to manage and reduce their bills.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) offers consumers a variety of tips for reducing summer electric bills. Consumers can find the tips on the agency's website ([www.IN.gov/OUCC](http://www.IN.gov/OUCC)) or call the agency toll-free.

Tips include:

- Set the thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature and dress appropriately.
- Be sure the filter in your air conditioner is clean. Replace it if necessary.
- Keep vents clean and make sure they are not blocked by furniture or other items.
- Make sure ceiling fans are set to turn counter-clockwise, and turn them off when leaving the room.
- Close blinds, shades, and draperies. Close storm doors and windows.
- Turn off TVs, computers and other electronic devices when you are not using them.
- Unplug chargers for cell phones, rechargeable batteries, and similar items when not in use.
- Wait until evening to use the oven, do laundry or run the dishwasher.
- Close vents in rooms you are not using and close doors to those rooms.
- Use exhaust fans sparingly and close the damper if you have a fireplace.
- Use compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights.

“Saving energy can help consumers manage their bills while helping ease the strain on the electric grid and power plants during these especially hot days,” said Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor David Stippler. “I encourage everyone to take steps that will make a difference in energy consumption and savings.”

In addition to taking steps to save energy in the short term, many Indiana consumers can receive residential home energy assessments from Energizing Indiana at no extra charge. To learn more and sign up for an assessment if you qualify, visit [www.energizingindiana.com](http://www.energizingindiana.com) or call 1-888-446-7750.

Consumers without Internet access who would like a free copy of the OUCC's “Reduce Your Summer Electric Bill” fact sheet can call the OUCC toll-free at 1-888-441-2494. The fact sheet is available in both English and Spanish.

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The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) represents Indiana consumer interests before state and federal bodies that regulate utilities. As a state agency, the OUCC's mission is to represent all Indiana consumers to ensure quality, reliable utility services at the most reasonable prices possible through dedicated advocacy, consumer education, and creative problem solving.

To learn more, visit [www.IN.gov/OUCC](http://www.IN.gov/OUCC) or follow us at [www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC](http://www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC).