

# POWER SOURCE

September 2007

Customers first.  
Energy that lasts.

HomeEnergyCalculator

## Are you spending too much for energy?

Learn how you can save energy dollars!  
1. Click the selections below that describe your home as it currently is.  
2. Use the calculator again, but change one selection. For example, change it to "low." Click "Calculate" again. You will see a new estimate for your water heater temperature. Have fun trying different scenarios!  
3. Click on "Home Type" and the other calculator labels. You will find appliances, and improving the overall comfort of your home.

### Calculate Your Base House

Home Type    
Year Home Built    
Sq Ft Heat/Cool 1000

Several factors – such as the age of your appliances and the number of showers you take – can impact your energy use (and the size of your bill). Our online Home Energy Calculator at [www.eon-us.com](http://www.eon-us.com) will show you several small changes that add up to big savings every month. ■



## Last chance to make money-saving improvements

### 5 minute task

Purchase and install fluorescent nightlights in several hallways and rooms. This low-energy lighting will keep you from going "bump" in the night without leaving wasteful lamps and overhead lights on. ■

### Start fall projects now to reduce your taxes, energy bills

If you're considering home improvements – such as installing a new furnace or heat pump, adding insulation or replacing your old water heater – it's time to take action. Many of these purchases will not only reduce your energy bill, but can **earn you federal tax credits if they're made before December 31, 2007**. Tax credits are generally more valuable than tax deductions, because credits reduce your taxes dollar for dollar.

**The U.S. Energy Policy Act offers a maximum \$500 credit for improvements made between January 1, 2006 and the end of this year such as:**

- A \$300 tax credit for installing a high-efficiency air conditioning system or heat pump
- A tax credit of \$150 for a new furnace or boiler



- Up to 10% of the cost of new, energy-efficient windows or skylights, not to exceed \$200
- Up to \$300 for buying a new ENERGY STAR® qualified water heater

- 10% credit toward the cost of home insulation, not to exceed \$500

Don't forget to save your receipts and any ENERGY STAR documentation. Your tax preparer can provide additional information.

For complete details on which products apply and how to claim the credit, go to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) and search for Federal Tax Credits. ■

## Keep in mind

### Before you start checking projects off your list, remember:

- Tools and ladders must be kept at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Carry ladders parallel to the ground and look up each time you move the ladder.
- Don't use water on an electrical fire. Keep a class C fire extinguisher nearby.
- Outside your home, use only outdoor-approved lighting fixtures and bulbs.
- If you're adding new landscaping, leave at least three feet of space around your electric meter for accessibility. Also, check the expected growth of any trees you're planting: tall-growing varieties can interfere with overhead power lines, which could lead to power outages.
- If you're planning to dig, don't forget to have your underground utility lines marked. This will help you avoid serious injury and the inconvenience of service interruption. ■



# “Air cleaners” that pollute your air

If you have a certain type of home air cleaner – an ozone generator sold as an air purifier – you may be reducing

the quality of air you breathe, rather than making it better. at cleaning the air, but they do increase your exposure to ozone, which can cause shortness of breath, chest pain and throat irritation, and may worsen asthma and other respiratory diseases.

If you want to clear the air in your home, start by opening doors and windows to increase ventilation. Choose air cleaners that don't produce ozone, such as HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) vacuums and “No Ozone” air purification systems. ■

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, such “air cleaners” aren't effective

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Old Dominion Power**

**ODP Customer Service**  
Monday – Friday  
(7 a.m. – 7 p.m.)  
(800) 981-0600

**24-hour Power Outages**  
(800) 981-0600

**Business Service Center**

Monday – Friday  
(7 a.m. – 6 p.m.)  
(859) 367-1200  
(800) 383-5582

**Editor**

Cheryl Williams  
@eon-us.com

Visit our website at  
[www.eon-us.com](http://www.eon-us.com)



# Keep more of your money

**Colder weather means your HVAC system will be working harder, and costing you more to operate. Here are four quick ways to rein in your energy bills:**

- Have your heating system professionally inspected and serviced.

- Clean or replace your furnace's air filter every month.
- Check registers or air returns to be sure they're not blocked by furniture, drapes or other items.
- If you have a wood-burning fireplace, be sure the chimney is cleaned and inspected by a qualified chimney contractor. ■

# Never mail another ODP payment

**Sign up for ODP's BillMail and you'll receive your monthly ODP bill via email, rather than regular mail. Then you can view and pay your bill online, all within the email. It's safe, secure and simple and means you may never again need to hunt for a stamp to send your ODP payment.**

To sign up, you'll need your ODP account number, an active email address and your meter number (including the letter at the beginning), which is found in the Meter Reading Information section of your ODP bill (Ex: L123456). If you want to pay your bill electronically, you'll also need your bank account and routing number. **Sign up online at [www.odpbillmail.com](http://www.odpbillmail.com) or call us at 1-800-981-0600 if you have any questions.** ■



# Liquid assets

**Long, hot showers increase your water and energy bills, as a standard, non-conserving showerhead uses up to five gallons of water per minute. Instead of buying a low-flow showerhead, you can easily and affordably install a flow restrictor, a perforated disk the same diameter as your shower's water pipe:**

- 1.** Unscrew the showerhead.
- 2.** Run soap around the threads of the pipe.
- 3.** Place the flow restrictor against the showerhead's washer.
- 4.** Screw the showerhead back on.

External restrictors are also effective and easy to install, although they are visible from the exterior of the showerhead. ■



POWER**CREATIVE**

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Desc./Specs: 2pgs\_2color

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Operator: cag, cag

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