

POWER Source

January 2007

Customers first.
Energy that lasts.

No peeking!

Using a slow cooker instead of the range to prepare stews, roasts and other meals will save energy, but try to avoid lifting the lid while food is cooking. When the lid is lifted the temperature inside will drop, adding about 20 minutes to the cooking time. ■



LG&E

an e-on company

Clean, affordable energy + concern for the environment

5 minute task

Vacuum dust from furnace registers or you may be giving up 10 percent of your heating system's efficiency. Floor registers can simply be lifted out; wall registers must be unscrewed first. Use your vacuum's flexible hose with a securely fastened brush (duct tape may be needed). ■

With the growing demand for energy and the cost of fuels such as natural gas, we understand the need for a wider range of affordable energy sources. We're also concerned with reducing the impact of energy production on climate change. That's why LG&E's parent company has joined the FutureGen Alliance, a government and private industry partnership to build the world's first coal-fueled, near-zero-emissions power production plant.

The innovative FutureGen plant will use coal to generate electricity while capturing and permanently storing the resulting carbon dioxide in geological formations. (Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.) A site for building the plant will be selected later this year.

FutureGen will use new technology to take advantage of coal's affordability while sequestering and storing carbon. This will be the first time that these technologies have been



integrated into a single plant and tested to show they are commercially feasible. The resulting data will influence the building of similar plants in the future to help produce economical, coal-fueled electricity with carbon capture.

We have been successfully addressing emissions from coal-fired power plants for nearly 35 years, when we became the first utility to install scrubbers at power plants. We believe this \$25 million investment will contribute to meeting our region's – and the world's – long-term energy challenges through clean energy from coal. ■



Get a clean start

Starting the new year with a clean kitchen can brighten your outlook while helping you save energy.

- A clean oven uses energy more efficiently. Keep the burners and reflectors clean so they will reflect heat better.

- Use your self-cleaning oven feature after cooking a meal. With the oven still hot, the cleaning feature will require less energy.
- Vacuum your refrigerator coils this month to keep the compressor running efficiently. Mark your calendar to vacuum the coils again in six months. ■

Give your home a January makeover

This time of year, many of us get the urge for a makeover. Giving your home an update with these low-cost or no-cost tips can make it and your savings account look noticeably better, as well.

Lighting

- Move lamps toward the corners of your rooms so their light will reflect off two walls. Proper placement and the use of light-colored lamp shades can help reduce the number of lights you'll need.
- Dust your light bulbs regularly. Clean bulbs can provide 50% more light than dirty ones. Now your room looks too bright? Switch to lower-wattage bulbs.
- Add desk lamps or undercabinet fixtures that focus light where it's needed. Task lighting can help you switch off the brighter (and more expensive) overhead lights.

Furnishings

- Paint walls lighter colors. White, ivory or pastel walls reflect light better than darker ones.
- Consider the new "low-e" or "low-emissivity" paint developed to help block heat transfer through your walls. These paints use microscopic ceramic or aluminum beads that fuse together to create a barrier to block air particles.*
- Replace heavier drapes with white, translucent curtains to let in natural light without giving up privacy.



- Don't allow home furnishings such as curtains and sofas to trap heated air behind them. Rearrange furniture away from registers to allow better air circulation.
- Install a ceiling fan with reversible rotation. In summer it can lift cooler air from floor level, while reversing it in winter circulates warm air trapped against the ceiling.

Landscaping

- Plant windbreaks – evergreen trees and tall shrubs – on the north and west sides of your house to shelter it from chilly winter winds. Trees that shade the south and southwest sides of your home can reduce your summer air-conditioning needs dramatically, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. ■

*PowerHouse, Alliant Energy www.powerhousetv.com

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- Check the Energy Calculator and the Home Energy Reference Library on our website at www.eon-us.com. You'll find hundreds of pages of energy tips and useful diagrams and photographs to help you select new appliances and discover which energy improvements are the best investments.
- Sign up for our Home Energy Savings Audit. Our representative will tour your home looking for specific ways to reduce your energy spending, then provide a detailed report of energy-saving measures appropriate for your home, the estimated cost to apply them and how much you can expect to save if you put them in place. The cost for the audit is \$15, which can be applied to your utility bill. You'll find more details on our website or you can call 1.800.251.7808 to learn more. ■