

# Saving Energy During The Holiday Season

## Tips To Help Keep Energy Use To A Minimum During The Holidays

- Purchase lower watt lights, such as miniature lights or the new L.E.D (Light Emitting Diode) holiday lights. The lower the wattage, the lower the energy usage. Large bulbs provide more light but use more electricity.
- Purchase light strands that are wired in parallel. These have separate circuitry so that if one bulb blows out the rest will keep shining; all you have to do is replace the bulb.
- Reduce your display by one, two or three strands of lights. If you make subtle changes, you may not even notice.
- Turn on lights only when it becomes dark. To avoid turning lights on too early or forgetting to turn them off, use a light timer. Timers may now be purchased with multiple settings so they can be turned on or off at various times in a 24-hour period.
- Limit the time your lights are on. Turn them on a little later and a little earlier than usual.
- Avoid leaving them on throughout the night or while you sleep. Not only is this a waste of energy but it's a fire hazard, too.
- Christmas lighting can give off heat. Consider lowering your thermostat during times the house is lit up with interior holiday lights.
- Be sure holiday decorations are not placed on or obstructing air vents.
- When cooking, use your microwave oven as much as possible or plan your oven baking to avoid continuously reheating the oven.
- Quickly exit and enter your home. Avoid leaving the door wide open when conversing with visitors. If you are the guest, be considerate of your host's energy use and say your farewells while still inside.
- While attending holiday parties, layer your clothes or wear a festive jacket or sweater. This allows you the freedom to warm up or cool off without the need to adjust the temperature of the host's home – and it increases your comfort!
- Turn down the heat before the guests arrive. You'll save energy while the extra body heat of your guests will warm up the room.
- Close the fireplace damper after putting out the evening or morning fire.
- Install a programmable thermostat. If you have a heat pump, select a model designed for heat pumps. Setback thermostats can save up to 15% on energy costs.



# Energy Costs for Holiday Lighting

We all enjoy the bright lights on homes and businesses throughout our community during this time of year. But if you chose to decorate with colorful lighting, it is important to be aware what the impact will be on your monthly utility bill.

If you use **traditional incandescent bulbs**, this seven-step formula will help you calculate your energy costs this holiday season.

1. Count the number of bulbs on your indoor tree and all of your other decorative indoor and outdoor lights. (For example, 2,500)
2. Check the wattage per bulb — one watt per bulb is common for mini lights. (For example, 1 watt)
3. Multiply watts per bulb by number of bulbs. (For example, 2,500 bulbs x 1 watt—2,500 watts)
4. Convert to kilowatts (kW) — 1,000 watts = 1 kilowatt. (For example, 2500 watts/1,000 = 2.5 kilowatts)
5. Estimate the number of hours in a month the lights are on. (For example, 5 hours per day x 30 days = 150 hours)
6. Multiply the total kilowatts by the total number of hours the lights will be on to get the total kilowatt-hours (kWh). (For example, 2.5kW x 150 hours = 375 kWh)
7. Multiply the total kilowatt-hours by the total cost of electricity. For typical UCNSB customers, the total cost of electricity is approximately 13 cents per kilowatt-hour. (For example, 375 kWh x .13 = \$48.75)

In our example, the cost of holiday lighting would add an additional \$48.75 to your utility bill.

Choosing the most appropriate holiday lights to decorate your house can add up to big energy savings over the course of the season. Consider seasonal light emitting diodes (LED) or fiber-optic lights if purchasing new lights this year.

**NOTE: The cost per watt for LED is .04 vs 1. for incandescent so you will save substantially by using LED's.**

Timers and photocells can also save you energy and money by automatically turning lights on at dusk and turning them off at a scheduled time. Be sure the timer is designed for the required amount of wattage.

(Courtesy of Kissimmee Utility Authority)