



Entergy Mississippi's New Web Site Offers Answers to High Bills

Site answers commonly asked questions and offers tips to lower monthly bills

As summer heat is in full force and with the U.S. economy still facing difficult times, Entergy Mississippi has unveiled a new Web site designed to answer commonly asked questions about electricity and to offer helpful tips to lower monthly energy bills during the hot, summer months.

EntergyAnswers.com provides answers to questions about a variety of topics, including how electricity is made, what goes into energy costs and what Entergy Mississippi is doing to ensure affordable energy in the future.

The new Web site also offers a series of easy to use tips that can help you lower your monthly energy bill.

"Even though the height of summer is still a few weeks away, EntergyAnswers.com is a great place to start learning about how to lower your energy use during summer months," said Gloria Johnson, director of customer service for Entergy Mississippi, Inc. "In addition to offering helpful tips, the new website is a great resource for learning about the electricity you use every day."

Tip 1: Adjust your thermostat

Air conditioning and heating can account for as much as 55 percent of your monthly electric bill. Setting the thermostat to 78 degrees during the summer is an easy way to reduce how much energy you use. Every degree below 78 on the thermostat can increase your bill by about three percent. Entergy Mississippi also recommends setting the thermostat to 80 degrees if you plan to be away from home for several days.

Tip 2: Conserve hot water

Heating the water you use each day, whether for showers or washing dishes or clothes, can account for 20 percent of your monthly bill. Wrap your electric water heater with a water heater jacket (available at any home improvement store) and set the temperature on the unit to 120 degrees or medium. Washing clothes in cold water when possible and running the dishwasher only when full can also help save energy.

Tip 3: Replace air filters every 30 days

The harder your air conditioner has to work to cool your house, the more energy it uses. Keeping air filters clean can make your unit more efficient, which means it uses less energy. Fiberglass air filters should be replaced monthly and aluminum mesh filters should be washed monthly. Use ceiling fans or floor fans to help circulate air – circulating air helps you to feel cooler and lets you set your thermostat at a higher temperature.



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Entergy Mississippi, Low-Income Advocates Tackle Poverty at 10th Annual Summit

Stimulus funding an opportunity to change poverty situation in state

More than 200 low-income champs from across the state were in Jackson in June to tackle challenges facing Mississippi's poorest residents.

The advocates attended the 2009 Annual Partnership Conference sponsored by Mississippi Association of Community Action Agencies and Entergy Mississippi, Inc.

The conference ran June 23-25 at the Jackson Marriott. The opening session was a forum on poverty.

"Chief among the topics targeted is 'How can the federal economic stimulus funding

change the poverty situation in Mississippi?'," said Liz Brister, manager of external affairs for Entergy Mississippi, Inc. "The causes of poverty can be defeated when we all get involved and focused on solving the problem. That's what Entergy and our low-income partners are committed to doing."

Mississippi has received about half of a \$50 million appropriation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to weatherize low-income housing this year. The state also received a record \$43

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million in LIHEAP dollars to help Mississippi families pay their utility bills. LIHEAP stands for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

"Research has shown that financial and weatherization assistance for low-income and working poor people creates jobs

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"...Web Site Offers Answers..." CONTINUED

Tip 4: Use energy-efficient light bulbs
ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs use 70 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than regular light bulbs. If you need more light, use one larger bulb rather than several smaller ones. A 100-watt bulb produces 50 percent more light than four 25-watt bulbs for the same amount of energy.

Tip 5: Seal air leaks around windows and doors
Caulking and weather-stripping are easy ways to stop hot air from outside from entering your home. Put weather-stripping around doors, windows and wall seams. You can also seal places where electrical,

plumbing or heating systems enter your house and add insulating gaskets on all electrical outlets and switches.

"Saving money on your energy bill is easier than you think," Johnson said. "By following all or some of these five energy saving tips, you'll see that conserving energy is not only good for the environment, it's good for your wallet. And with this economy, every little bit helps."

"Electricity is a good value when compared to other household expenses," she added. "The typical Entergy Mississippi customer already spends less than \$5.00 per day on electricity and making small adjustments can really add up to even bigger savings."

Another online option is My Account Online, which lets you view and pay your bill, view your billing and payment history, and update account information – all with a few clicks of a mouse.

You can also register for other Entergy Mississippi services to help manage your account. Level Billing can help lower summer bills by averaging 12 months' worth of bills so that there are no summer spikes. Pick-A-Date lets you choose the date your bill is due, while Automatic Monthly Payments saves you the trouble of writing and mailing a check.

"...Advocates Tackle Poverty..." CONTINUED

and stimulates economic development," said Willie Martin, MACAA executive director. "This investment in our state will save money for hardworking families, elderly and disabled Mississippians, and others who desperately need help in these trying times."

This was the tenth year of the Summit, created by Entergy in 1999 as a forum for low-income experts and advocates to identify options for helping the poor. Almost one-quarter of all households served by Entergy have incomes below the poverty level. Over the past 10 years, Entergy has mounted an intensive campaign to improve the lives of these customers. Major initiatives include:

- A significant increase of LIHEAP funds from \$16 million to \$43 million last year due in part to the company's advocacy efforts. Entergy Mississippi has lobbied extensively for LIHEAP funding for warm weather states over the past decade.
- Establishment of the Power to Care fund administered by The Salvation Army to provide bill payment

assistance to the elderly and disabled. Entergy Mississippi's employers and customers donate to the fund and company shareholders match contributions dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000. In 2008, more than 5,000 families were assisted with Power to Care funds.

- Entergy grants to non-profit organizations totaled \$1.1 million last year and supported 515 programs. Entergy employees volunteered thousands of hours of their time to support community-building efforts.

A low-income progress report will be given during the conference and can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/nk6j2c>.

"From last summer's high natural gas prices through the current economic downturn, every day brings another example of why communities must work together to address the difficult issues so many of our fellow Mississippians

face," said Gloria Johnson, director of customer service for Entergy Mississippi, Inc. "We've made progress these past 10 years, but now is the time to step-up—not stop—our efforts.

"We'll continue to work tirelessly to assist our low-income customers so all Mississippians can realize a more promising and productive future."

Research has shown that financial and weatherization assistance for low-income and working poor people creates jobs and stimulates economic development.



The 2009 Annual Partnership Conference was sponsored by Mississippi Association of Community Action Agencies and Entergy Mississippi, Inc.



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