



# The Power Source

Trenton Municipal Utilities  
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April, May, June 2010

[www.trentonmo.com](http://www.trentonmo.com)

## Is Budget Billing Right for You?

Trenton Municipal Utilities offers a Budget Billing service to its customers. This basically means that you pay a set amount each month for your utility bill. Trenton Municipal Utilities will look at the amount you spent over a twelve-month period and then add a percentage to it, to cover the cost of any rate increases or fluctuations, then divide the amount over twelve months to figure what your monthly bill will be.

Applications are accepted in April and May and the Budget billing cycle begins with May's bill. The following April, bills are settled showing the customer's overpayment or underpayment for that year. Overpayments are credited to the customers account and underpayments are billed along with April's regular bill that the customer will be required to pay.

Budget billing may not be for everyone, but some might find it easier to set up their financial budget if they have a set amount to use every month.

For more information on Budget Billing, contact the TMU office at 660-359-2281.

## Office Closings

Trenton Municipal Utilities and City Hall will be closed on Friday, April 2nd in observance of Good Friday and Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day. For immediate emergency utility service, contact our after hours service at (660) 359-3211.

## Missouri's Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday – April 19-25

If you are considering buying a major appliance, look at doing so the week of April 19<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. This is the second *Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday* held in Missouri. If you choose to buy a

new ENERGY STAR® appliance, you will receive 4.225% off your purchase during that week. For more information go to <http://dor.mo.gov/news/2010/031710>.



## Time to Uncover Your Water Meter



Once spring has arrived and the chance of a hard freeze is less likely, individuals are asked to uncover their water meters. Water meters need to be uncovered as soon as possible in the spring so that our meter readers can begin getting reads on the customers meters. Our meter readers will not disturb water meters that are still covered.

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# LET'S GO GREEN!!



Summer is on the horizon and that means.....the trees will soon be filled with **green** leaves, we'll once again be mowing lush **green** grass and gardens will be abundant with fresh **greens**. Here at TMU we have made it our initiative to help you keep some "**green**" in your pocket! By taking part in these energy conservation tips we can do our part in saving the environment while saving some "**green**"!



You can save hundreds of dollars off your utility bill just by working towards being energy efficient. Electricity can be expensive, why spend money you don't have to?

The key is learning how to become energy efficient. The following are a few ideas to help you cut costs from your monthly utility bill. If you have any questions about the following information please feel free to contact our office at 660-359-2281.

## Heating and Cooling

The most obvious and most talked about energy consumption comes from heating and cooling our homes. In a typical home, approximately 55% of the energy is used in heating and cooling. The suggested temperature settings for heat is 68°-70° Fahrenheit by day and 60°-65° Fahrenheit at night. Keep air conditioning set at 76°-78° Fahrenheit and use a ceiling fan or box fan at night for comfortable sleeping conditions.

## Small changes, Big savings

There are many small changes we can make around our homes that will result in significant energy savings. Many of these changes are so minimal that it will not effect your daily life or routine.

- Unplug appliances and electronics that you rarely use because many household items use energy even if they are not in use
- Take a shorter, cooler shower. Only fill tub ½ full when bathing. Do not run washer/dry or dishwasher unless you have enough for a full load.
- Turn off lights when you are not using them and install energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights (these lights last longer and use far less energy than standard light bulbs)
- Refrigerators and freezers account for about 5% of the energy used in the home. Make sure the doors on these appliances close tightly and only open them when necessary. Vacuum the coils on these appliances at least twice a year and this will also reduce energy use.
- If you want to really save some **green** you can do so by putting up a clothes line and drying your laundry naturally. You can also save money by collecting rain water to use for watering your plants and shrubs. Simply place a large barrel under an eave trough and "wahla" you have free water to use on your landscaping.