

## *Californians Met the Energy Challenge This Summer; Fall and Winter Will Test Our Commitment*

Congratulations and thanks to every Californian who contributed to the state's success in meeting the energy challenge this summer! Your commitment to conservation played a major role in preventing rolling blackouts.

In 2001, OREA and other state offices significantly cut electricity use from January through the end of the summer compared to the same period in 2000. For example, in monitoring 37 of the state's largest office buildings covering nearly 12 million square feet, the Department of General Services has recorded an average 22.4 percent drop in electricity use. Despite hikes in utility rates, the state was still able to save more than \$800,000 in cities such as Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, Van Nuys, and Riverside.

While the state has made extraordinary progress in bringing new power generation on line, the threat of shortages remains real. Conservation, both now and for the long term, will continue to be an important part of the strategy to keep the lights on.

The colder months present challenges just as tough as the summer months. There are increased demands for power across the state for lighting, heating and other priorities. So we cannot let our guard down just because the seasons have changed.

Below are some practical cool weather tips from the Flex Your Power website that will help all of us continue to save power, save money and keep electricity flowing to all California communities.

Set your thermostat to 68 degrees when you're home and 55 degrees at night, or off when you're away.

### Use Your Appliances Wisely

- Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use.
  - To help prevent electricity outages, **do not run large appliances** between 5 a.m. - 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Do your laundry efficiently by using the warm or cold water setting for washing your clothes and *always* use cold water to rinse clothes.
- Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the dry cycle to allow dishes to air dry instead.



### Inexpensive Energy Solutions

- Choose **Energy Star**® products. Purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs. They use a quarter of the energy and last five to ten times longer than conventional light bulbs.
- Reduce your hot water temperature. Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120 degrees unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting.
- Replace furnace filters once a month. Dirty filters restrict airflow and increase energy use. Keep your furnace clean, lubricated and properly adjusted.
- Install low-flow showerheads. You'll be surprised how much this simple device can cut your hot water costs.
- Wrap your hot water tank with jacket insulation. If your water heater is gas, be sure to leave the air intake vent uncovered.

### Eliminate Wasted Energy

- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers when they're not in use.
- Close the damper on your fireplace when you're not using it.
- Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it.

Check out [www.flexyourpower.ca.gov](http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov) for more information and ways to save money!