

**For those months when the temperatures are warm and your home utilizes its air conditioning unit be sure to:**

- Keep your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature, 75 to 78 degrees is recommended.
- Homeowners can save about \$180 a year by properly setting their programmable thermostats and maintaining those settings. Set the temperature up to at least 80 degrees.
- Use a fan with your window air conditioner to spread the cool air through your home.
- Avoid placing lamps or TVs near your air conditioning thermostat. The heat from these appliances will cause the air conditioner to run longer.
- Is your cooling system working properly? Have your cooling system serviced annually.
- Change the filters monthly. Dirty filters make the system work harder.
- Don't block your supply or return air vents with furniture or other objects. Also, don't block your outside A/C unit or stack anything on or against the heat pump.
- At night, lower the thermostat to cool the house off. The unit will function more efficiently in the cool night air and community demands on the power grid are lower at night.
- Check your cooling system's ductwork. Ensure that it is well insulated, has no kinks or tight bends and has no holes or has become disconnected. Leaky ductwork can increase your cooling bill by 30%.
- Make sure your fireplace damper seals tightly and is closed except when a fire is burning or smoldering in the fireplace. Be aware that open hearth fireplaces allow a lot of outdoor air to enter your home through the flue pipe.
- Close drapes and curtains to keep the sun out during the day to reduce heat gain and reduce cooling costs.
- Check all your windows and doors to be sure they seal tightly when closed.
- Is your home's insulation up to current standard? Is some missing or compressed. There should be about 13" or R-38 in attics, R-13 for wall and 6" or R-19 in crawl space floors.

*For more information go to [www.myrec.coop/residential/save-energy/index.cfm](http://www.myrec.coop/residential/save-energy/index.cfm)*