

Tips For Handling an Urgent Energy Need

Do you know what steps to take if you find yourself facing a 48 hour shut-off notice? Do you know someone who has had their power disconnected and you wished you were able to help them out? Here are a few ideas to help you or a friend handle an urgent energy need.

Contact your power company or fuel provider to discuss the possibility of a payment plan. A payment plan may allow you to pay a set amount each month to work toward reducing what you owe. A payment plan also helps avoid getting stuck with a big bill in the winter when the heating cost is higher. The power company may be able to help determine a monthly amount that will work for you, based on your income and heating needs.

Review your monthly budget and bills. Do you have any costs you can cut back on in one area to help free up funds to pay your power or fuel bill?

Are you living in an older home or poorly insulated home, trailer or RV? Consider signing up to attend an Energy Education class. The class dates and times are listed on our website at www.neighborimpact.org. The class provides helpful tips and free samples of energy-saving products.

Consider covering your windows with insulating plastic to help keep your power bill down. Kits for this are inexpensive and can be purchased at any hardware store.

Be sure to dress in layers if you do need to keep your thermostat turned down below 68 degrees.

Consider keeping some rooms at a cooler temperature if this is an option. For example, if you spend most of your time in the family room and not much time in the kitchen and living room, consider keeping those rooms where you spend less time at a cooler temperature as a way to keep your power bill down.

Place a rolled up bath towel at the base of your outside doors to prevent drafts.

Above all, play it safe. Never use your cooking stove as a source of heat. Do not use a propane heater as a heat source when you are sleeping. Carbon Monoxide poisoning is deadly.