



**Ripley Power & Light
will be closed...**

- Monday, October 13, for Columbus Day
- Thursday and Friday, November 27-28, for the Thanksgiving holiday



**Be sure to visit our website:
www.ripleypower.com**

Back issues of "Tennessee Connections" are under the "About Us" link on the website homepage.

OFFICE HOURS & LOCATIONS

We are open 47 hours each week to serve you better!

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday

You can pay your utility bill at...

- 150 S. Main St. in Ripley
- 409 S. Church St. in Halls

If you have not been receiving your bills, call our office immediately so we can verify your mailing address.



731-635-2323 ■ 731-836-7595
www.ripleypower.com

Take a step...

Going 'Green' can start with a light bulb

Who would think that just changing a light bulb could have an impact on the world? Energy Star's "Change a Light Campaign" challenges every American to make an energy-saving step by replacing at least one light in their home with one that has earned the ENERGY STAR.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) have the ENERGY STAR distinction and are a good choice for home lighting. They use less energy than incandescent bulbs, have the same light output and can last up to ten times longer. Over the lifetime of the bulb, consumers can save \$40 or more in electricity costs.

CFLs provide the greatest savings when used in fixtures that remain on for more than 15 minutes at a time and can take from 30 seconds to three minutes to reach their full lighting potential after they are turned on.

In an effort to help customers get a jump on going green, each participant in Ripley Power & Light's free home energy audit last spring received a CFL in the energy-saving packet that accompanied the results of the survey.

Mrs. D.G. Dennie, one customer who participated in the audit, has installed her CFL in her bedroom. "I grew up without power," says 95-year-old Dennie. "I read all the suggestions that the audit results said and was happy to put in the new light bulb. I have always tried to save power. Growing up as

Learn how to have an "energy star" home at www.energystar.gov.



poor as I was, I learned to never waste anything."

To ensure that you have the right quality of light from CFLs, be sure to check the lumen rating of the bulb. The higher it is, the greater the light output. Also, check the bulb's Kelvin (K) rating. Bulbs with a rating of 2,700-3,000K give off a soft, warm light that is close to an incandescent bulb and are suitable for rooms such as bedrooms and living rooms.

A bulb with a 3,500-6,500K rating gives off a cooler, white light that is similar to "bright white." These bulbs are a good choice for task lighting.

To choose the right size CFL bulb, simply compare its measurements with the widest portion and height of your existing bulb. Replace your used incandescent bulb with a CFL of equivalent wattage. CFL manufacturers generally indicate this information on the packaging with such wording as "equivalent to a 60-watt bulb."

Jerry Mills is another Ripley Power & Light customer who participated in the energy audit. "I went through the results of my audit and did the ones I could," says Mills, who lives in a home built in the early 1960s. "I already had three of the CFLs in use in my home. I am pleased with them and happy to add another one."



Ripley POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Let us help you save energy dollars

Whether it's at the gas pump or on our monthly utility bills, rising energy costs are affecting all of us.

"We may not be able to change energy prices, but we can change how much energy we use," says Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power & Light. "As your electric provider, we are here to help you make energy-efficient choices so that you can lower your energy consumption, and thus, lower your energy bill."

Allmand encourages his customers to use Power & Light as a resource for saving energy in their homes. For example, if your heating and/or air conditioning unit is more than 10 years old or if it is not an efficient system, Allmand suggests that you call Ripley Power & Light for a free consultation on determining the most efficient way to heat and cool your home.

Through its financing program, Ripley Power & Light also makes it easier to pay for energy-efficient electric heat pumps and water heaters and other energy-efficient measures for your home. Once approved, you can make payments for these appliances on your monthly utility bill. The length of the loan varies with the cost of the item.

"Many times the energy you save by switching to energy-efficient electric equipment and appliances offsets your monthly payment for the item," Allmand says.

Michael Scofield found that to be true after replacing his inefficient and ailing central gas heating and air-conditioning unit with an electric heat pump in March 2007. (See accompanying

story on back page of magazine). "What I am saving each month in energy costs more than offsets the monthly cost of my new heat pump," says Scofield.

Working through Ripley Power & Light's financing program was easy, too, he adds. "The financing program could not have been an easier process. I called and applied over the phone and was approved the next day."

With the price of natural gas rising faster than electric rates, Power & Light encourages customers to switch from gas to electric heat and water heating when possible. It will even give the customer \$100 towards the purchase of an electric water heater if he or she is switching from a gas unit.

"Cold weather is around the corner, and energy prices this winter are expected to be higher than last winter's prices," Allmand says. "Now is the time to take the necessary steps you can to save as much as possible on your winter utility bills. If it's time to replace that heating unit, don't put it off through another costly winter. If you can feel summer's hot air coming through your windows or cracks around your door, you'll have cold temperatures seeping into your home this winter.

He encourages customers to take an energy assessment of their homes now and to take action before cold weather hits. "The steps you take will pay off in lower energy bills," he says.

Turn the page for some tips from Ripley Power & Light on how to get started...



Heat Pumps

An electric heat pump is one of the most efficient ways to heat and cool your home in our climate. For example, you can expect to save at least 50 percent on heating costs over electric resistance heat and 40 percent or more over gas heat.

An electric heat pump is a central heating and cooling system in one. During the winter, a heat pump absorbs heat from the outside air, compresses it to make it hotter and then circulates it through your home. Outside air always has heat – even in the coldest weather – which is a big reason heat pumps are so efficient. Heat pumps keep the home at an even temperature with no fluctuations like you can get with other types of systems.

During the summer, the process is reversed. The heat pump removes heat and humidity from inside your home and transfers it to the outside. Your home stays de-

humidified, cool and comfortable.

When buying a heat pump, it is important to know that...

- The more efficient the heat pump, the higher the purchase price, but the more you will save on operational costs. Heat pump efficiencies are normally rated in SEERs.

- To work best, a heat pump has to match your home's heating and cooling needs. An undersized system won't adequately cool your home, while an oversized one won't dehumidify properly and can make your home drafty.

That's why Ripley Power & Light recommends that you buy and install your heat pump through an approved dealer on our Quality Contractor Network. And, when you do, we'll finance your purchase with payments added to your monthly electric bill.

Go to www.ripleypower.com for a list of approved dealers.



For more information...

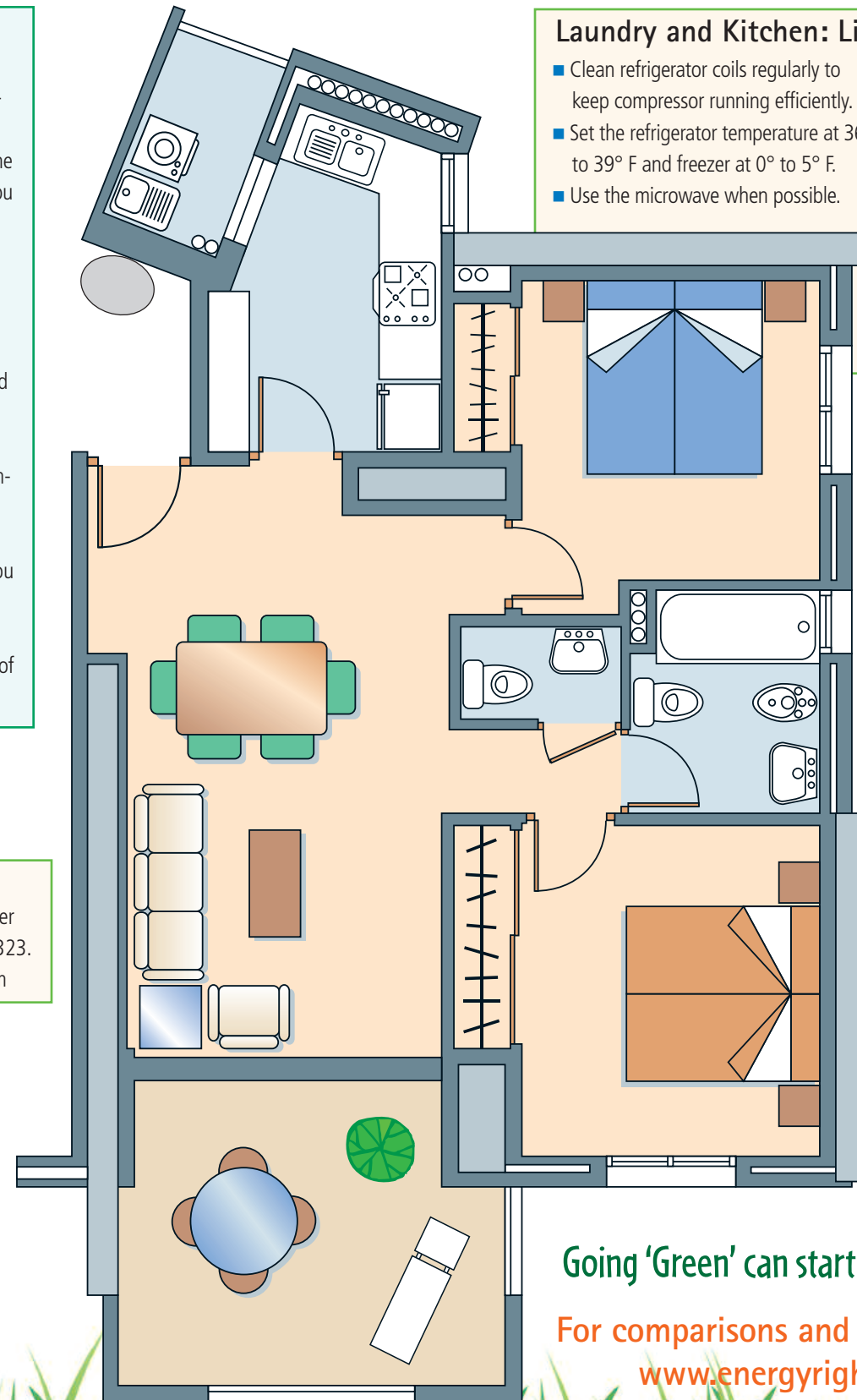
- Call Mike Demeris, Energy and Customer Services Representative, at 731-635-2323.
- Visit our website, www.ripleypower.com

Whole house

Steps that affect your heating and cooling and water heating will save the most energy...

- If your heating and/or cooling unit is aging or needs replacement, buy an energy-efficient heat pump.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors to stop air leaks.
- Seal gaps in floors and walls around pipes and electrical wiring.
- Have your ductwork inspected and repair leaks.

- Replace single-pane windows with triple-pane, energy-efficient American Dream windows.
- Change air filters monthly.
- Tune-up your heating and cooling system annually to keep it running as efficiently as possible.
- Add insulation to your attic, crawl space and any accessible exterior walls.
- Wrap your water heater with insulation or install an insulating blanket.



Laundry and Kitchen: Little steps add up

- Clean refrigerator coils regularly to keep compressor running efficiently.
- Set the refrigerator temperature at 36° to 39° F and freezer at 0° to 5° F.
- Use the microwave when possible.
- Replace worn-out seals on your refrigerator and freezer.
- Air-dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher's heat-drying option.
- Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when full.
- Use cold water for rinse cycles.
- Consider replacing your refrigerator, especially if older than 10 years, with an ENERGY STAR refrigerator.

Bath

- Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads.
- Fix leaky faucets – one drop per second can add up to 165 gallons of wasted water a month.

Living areas

- Use power strips for home electronics and turn off power strips when equipment is not in use.
- Perform a do-it-yourself home energy audit. Go to www.energyright.com.
- Turn off lights, televisions and other appliances when not in use.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents – they use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer. (See next page...)
- This winter, keep your thermostat at 68 degrees or as low as you are comfortable. Turn it lower when you go to bed at night or if you plan to be away from home for several hours.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when replacing appliances.



A look at your energy dollar

Ever wondered where your energy dollar goes? For a typical, all-electric household, each dollar is divided this way...

- Heating: 35 cents
- Cooling: 20 cents
- Water Heating: 20 cents
- Laundry and Dishwasher: 7 cents
- Lighting and Miscellaneous: 8 cents
- Refrigerator and Freezer: 5 cents
- Cooking: 5 cents

(Percentages will vary with climate, energy-use habits and weatherization of your home.)

We can help...

Ripley Power & Light will finance your purchase of many energy-efficient items...

- Electric heat pumps and HVAC systems purchased through one of our approved dealers for new or existing homes.
- American Dream, triple-pane replacement windows.
- Electric State Water heaters. (We'll give \$100 for your purchase when you switch from gas to electric water heating.)
- Space heaters.
- Hot water demand system.
- Electric, energy-efficient appliances, washers, dryers, refrigerators and freezers.
- Attic Guard, which can reduce your attic temperatures 20-30 degrees.
- Insulation added to your attic or walls.
- Duct work repairs and upgrades.
- Solar light that brightens your kitchen, bath, closet or any dark room in your home to save energy.

Going 'Green' can start with a light bulb, next page...

For comparisons and energy audit tools, go to... www.energyright.com/savingenergy/