



## Keep Your Cool This Summer

SEC members have several energy-saving options to help combat the heat this summer — and many are inexpensive. On cooler days, open your windows in the evening and turn off the air conditioner while sleeping. In the morning, shut the windows and blinds to hold in the cool air. Where practical, plant trees and shrubs that provide shade in warm months and allow sunlight in winter. Just be sure not to plant trees and tall shrubs near power lines! In addition to enhancing the look of your landscape, well placed trees can provide shade by creating a canopy for the house.

In extremely hot weather, your cooling system works harder to close the gap between the high outdoor temperature and the cool indoor thermostat setting. To decrease the difference in

temperature between the two, and lower cooling costs, set the thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. Use ceiling fans in conjunction with air conditioning to allow you to increase the thermostat setting approximately four degrees without sacrificing comfort levels.

During the hottest months, it's all the more critical to replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LEDs. The heat generated from the old bulbs impacts energy use and creates wasteful and unwanted heat. Use a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home or your family is sleeping.

*For more information on energy savings, please visit [www.sec.coop/waystosave](http://www.sec.coop/waystosave).*

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