### **IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

# Summer Energy-Saving Guide for Residential Customers



To help customers save energy and money during this difficult time, IID has assembled a list of low-cost, no-cost energy-saving tips for renters and homeowners.

### **AIR CONDITIONER**

- Prepare your AC for the summer. Your AC generates about 60 percent of your electric bill. Ensure it is running efficiently by having it serviced regularly.
- Routinely clean or replace the AC filter. Clogged air filters block regular airflow and affect the coil's heat-absorbing capacity, reducing your AC's efficiency.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher when you are home. Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than desired temperature. This will not cool your home any faster and may result in unnecessary expense.
- Install a next-generation thermostat to help manage your AC. Next-generation thermostats are self-programing and can help save more energy by learning your schedule and preferences. (Rebates for next-generation thermostats are available at www.iid.com/rebates.)
- Use a ceiling fan to cool for less. A ceiling fan allows you to raise the air conditioner's temperature setting up to 4° with no reduction in comfort. Remember, fans cool people by creating a wind chill effect.



### **APPLIANCES**

• Avoid using major appliances like washers, dryers and dishwashers between peak hours of 4 and 8 p.m. during the summer months. Energy is most expensive during the peak hours, so by reducing the use of your energy-intensive appliances, you can help reduce your electric costs.

Unplug that second fridge located in the hot garage or utility room. IID will pick it up and pay you \$50 to properly recycle it for you. Sign-up here for IID's Refrigerator Recycling Program.

- Lower your water heater's temperature setting. Water heating accounts for approximately 14 to 18 percent of your utility bill. By reducing the temperature setting and using less hot water, you can save energy and money.
- Use lower heat settings and the moisture sensor option on your dryer. Although the drying cycle may be longer with lower heat settings, you will use less energy. By using the moisture sensor option, the dryer will automatically shut off when it senses clothes are dry.
- Set your dishwashers on economy mode to use less water and electricity. Be sure your dishwasher is full when you run it; running a near-empty dishwasher does not necessarily mean dishes will be clean.
- Cover food stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods and liquids release moisture and make the refrigerator's compressor work harder.
- Don't make your refrigerator work too hard by keeping your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperature settings for the fresh food compartment are 35° to 38°E.
- Choose energy-efficient appliances. If you must purchase an appliance, choose an ENERGY STAR® model that will save you money for years to come. Before buying, check IID's website for rebates and efficiency requirements.

## Summer Energy-Saving Guide for Residential Customers



### **ELECTRONICS**

- Plug electronics into a smart power strip. Printers, computers and flat-screen TVs are generally equipped with standby modes that make them convenient to use while using significant power. Smart power strips reduce your power usage by shutting off power to products that go into standby mode.
- Use the power management settings on computers and monitors. On Apple computers, such features are found in System Preferences; on Windows-based computers, the System settings can be found after clicking the settings icon.
- Turn off the monitor if you will not be using your PC for more than 20 minutes.
- Turn off the CPU (and monitor) if you will be away for more than two hours.

#### **DOORS AND WINDOWS**

- Block the sun from overheating your home. Inside, use shades, blinds and drapes. Outside, use awnings, trees and shrubs.
- Apply sun-control or other reflective films on east, west and south-facing windows.
- Address household leaks to make sure cool air is not escaping. Caulking and weatherstripping are easy, inexpensive and effective ways to reduce air leakage around doors and windows.

### **LIGHTING**

- Replace your five most-used light fixtures and/or bulbs with LED ENERGY STAR® products and save about \$75 per year.
- Use task lighting when reading or working on computers or paperwork.
- Keep lights clean—dusty light bulbs and lampshades can obstruct as much as half the light emitted by the bulb.

