
Power Manager Tips to Keep Cool on a Hot Day

If you are enrolled in Duke Energy's Power Manager Program, you are one of many customers who help reduce power use when it's needed most in our communities. During these cycling times, customers often ask for more details on the program and for air conditioning tips. Here is some information you can print and keep for future reference.

If you have any questions about Duke Energy's Power Manager Program call
1-800-777-9898
to speak to a representative.

For cycling event information, please call **1-800-832-3169**

General Information about Power Manager

During a Power Manager cycling event, it is normal for the home to gain a few degrees in temperature. The temperature increase will depend on many variables - - the outside temperature, the size of your air conditioner, sunlight coming through windows and the length of the cycling event. After the cycling period ends, your air conditioner may run continuously until your home reaches your thermostat temperature.

Keeping cool and comfortable in the summer and watching your electricity usage can be a challenge. Here are some tips to help keep your home comfortable, not only during a cycling event, but during the hot days of the summer.

Keep your curtains and blinds fully closed on the sunny side of the home. Especially if you know you are going to be away from home and the forecast calls for hot weather, close all your window coverings for the entire day. Many air conditioners are sized large enough to cool when the curtains are open. When you close the curtains, you have "extra" cooling capacity and the air conditioner does not need to run as often to keep your home comfortable.

Minimize door traffic to the outside. The outside air is not only hot, it's also very humid. These variables can add extra load on your air conditioning, causing your bill to increase.

Ceiling fans and other air circulating fans can improve your comfort. New energy efficient fans are best as they produce less heat. Whenever the home is closed for air conditioning, do not use the large, whole house exhaust fans. These fans cause inside, conditioned air to be replaced by outside, humid air.

If you know your air conditioner is being cycled, **postpone activities that add heat and/or extra moisture to your indoor air**. Examples of heat sources are unnecessary lighting, ironing or baking. Running the clothes dryer may reduce your comfort in two ways - - it produces unwanted heat and when it exhausts air to the outside, this causes the home to draw in make-up air which is warm and humid. Other sources of moisture are cooking, canning fruits and vegetables or taking a shower or bath.

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) use much less electricity and produce much less heat than standard incandescent lights.

Insulate your air conditioning and heating ducts. This is a very important energy saving measure for any home where the duct-work is not inside the insulated shell. Air conditioning ducts located in an attic need the most attention. Ducts exposed to extreme attic temperatures can add 10 to 40 percent to your heating and cooling load and your costs. These ducts should be completely buried in attic insulation or wrapped with at least six inches of insulation.