

Office of the People's Counsel

District of Columbia

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Elizabeth A. Noël
 People's Counsel

**The People's Counsel's
 Citywide Energy Expo Exhibitors**

The Office of the People's Counsel extends sincere appreciation to the Pennsylvania Baptist Church for use of its facilities. OPC also thanks all the exhibitors for their meaningful contribution to make this day a resounding success!!

**Electric Supply Rates Increased by 25%!
 It's High Time to Make Your Homes Energy
 Efficient!!**

March 31, 2005

Pepco's electric generation rate caps were lifted February 8, 2005. D.C. electric ratepayers will soon see a whopping 25% increase or an average \$10.00 added on your electric bill. Consumers must accept the world has changed. Regulators can no longer "balance" the public's interests in reasonable rates because more than 60% of the electric rate is no longer subject to local regulatory scrutiny or review! At OPC, we call this deregulation and electric restructuring gone very wrong!

You must now even more aggressively explore and utilize all options for realizing Savings on your electric bills. You must be better informed about pricing and the related cost of electricity, and you must use all reasonable options to lower your energy bills. Gone is any allegiance to brand names or the traditional utility in today's emerging competitive energy market. Be selfish, do your homework, and choose the energy supplier giving you real Savings on your energy bills.

You must be better informed about energy efficiencies and take the necessary steps to make your homes more energy efficient. "East of the River Energy Expo" is your chance to learn by "hands-on" demonstrations and get valuable information on energy efficiency measures for your homes. Become proactive, take the "bull by the horn," and do your part to ensure your family's energy needs are met efficiently.

Energy Expo will show you the "A to Zs" of energy efficiencies such as the need for proper insulation, an energy audit, repairing leaking faucets, and planting the correct foliage. You will also learn what factors to consider when purchasing windows or major appliances and the proper techniques for caulking and weather-stripping windows and doors, etc.

Also, exhibitors are here to walk you through the home improvement financing process by sharing with you loan options, i.e., government low interest and other nontraditional loans. I urge you to "grab" Energy Expo's "hands-on" chance to raise your "energy efficiency IQ" so you can make the right choices about energy Savings.

**Remember: Only an informed consumer can make the right choices.
 Get informed. Be empowered!**

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 People's Counsel

Visit OPC's website, www.opc-dc.gov
 E-mail OPC at ccceo@opc-dc.gov

Table Numbers	Exhibitors	Description of Exhibits
1	Registration Table	Sign In.
2	Office of the People's Counsel	Informational brochures on utility issues and concerns. Understanding your Utility Bills seminar will be held in the breakout rooms next to the main hall
3	DC Water & Sewer	Demonstrations on "How to" check for leaks in the toilets and sinks
4	Grayton Plumbing	Tankless Hot Water Heater demonstration
5	University Legal Services	Free legal counseling to DC residents about homeownership, reverse equity mortgage, Rehab programs from DHCD and other programs
6	Washington Gas	Literature on gas safety and energy efficiencies.
7	DC Energy Office	Demonstrations on use of energy efficient items such as, light bulbs, caulking guns, etc.
8	PEPCO	Video presentation on how to plan ahead for power outages and many bill paying options.
9	Home Depot	Demonstrations of residential generators, proper insulation techniques, efficient windows, programmable thermostat operation: and energy efficient lighting
10	University Legal Services	Free legal counseling to DC residents about homeownership, reverse equity mortgage, Rehab programs from DHCD and other programs
11	Industrial Bank	Information on home improvement loans and various other loans
12	Sierra Club	Demonstration on purchasing an electric hybrid car

Table Numbers	Exhibitors	Description of Exhibits
13	Casey Trees	Will demonstrate how the proper planting of trees can make your homes more energy efficient
14	AARP	Information of services and benefits to joining AARP
15	DC Is Electric	District of Columbia residents and small businesses: Get the facts about changes to your electric bill.
16	Howard University Cancer Center	Information on free cancer prevention screening
17	DC Emergency Management Agency	Information and literature on emergency preparedness
18	HEW Federal Credit Union	General member ship and financial counseling information and the various REHAB and other loans available to help with energy efficiency conversions in the home.
19	Health Insurance Counseling Project (HICP)	Free health insurance counseling information, education and counseling services
20	Washington Gas Energy Services	Information on gas safety and energy efficiency
21	Housing Counseling Services, Inc.	Information on the many housing programs and workshops available to DC residents
22	Alliance To Save Energy	Window demonstration and information on numerous energy efficiency methods
23	Washington Highlands Library	Provide books on energy efficiency and "how to fix it" - available at the library and general membership information
24	Francis A. Gregory Library	Provide books on energy efficiency and "how to fix it" - available at the library and general membership information

Summer Cooling Season Cost Saving Tips

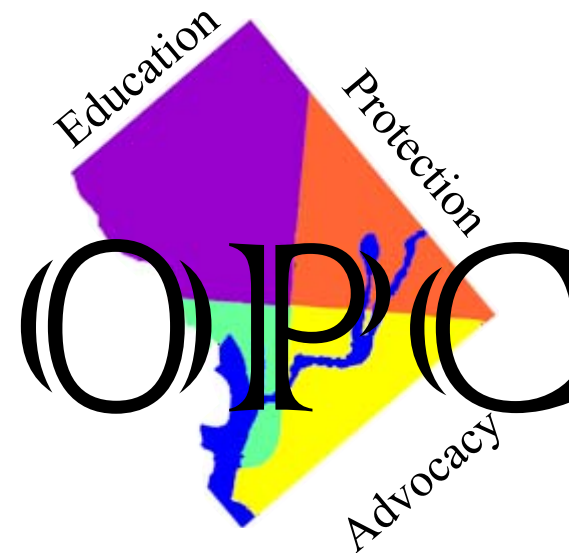
- ◆ If you have a central heating/cooling system, have a licensed contractor or other qualified technician check the unit and thermostat for operating efficiency. Check filters and clean or replace as necessary.
- ◆ For window air conditioners, follow the owner's manual regarding cleaning and filter maintenance. Make sure the air conditioner is properly mounted, and secured and the windows caulked.
- ◆ Clean and lubricate ceiling and floor fans according to the manufacturer's instructions. Place floor fans safely away from walk-through and play areas. Check power cord for wear or damage and replace as necessary.
- ◆ When purchasing window air conditioners, check energy saving ratings, as well as other features.
- ◆ Window units equipped with a "power saver" feature can be set to cycle on and off. This feature allows you to maintain the desired temperature while keeping costs as low as possible. Remember, The lower the temperature setting, the cooler the temperature, the longer the unit will be on, and ultimately, the higher your bill will be.
- ◆ Keep draperies or blinds closed during the warmest part of the day.
- ◆ Make sure your home is properly insulated, particularly the sidewalls and attic.
- ◆ During extremely hot weather, children and seniors must drink fluids and keep indoor air circulating. (If you do not have an air conditioner, at least keep air moving with a fan and/or open window.) Radio and television broadcasts will list cooling center locations during heat emergencies. Seniors should stay in touch with neighbors during extremely hot days.

Winter Heating Season Cost Savings Tips

- ◆ Have a licensed contractor or other qualified technician check your heating system, hot water heater, water pipes and ducts. Use insulation kits to wrap the water heater and hot water pipe leading from the tank.
- ◆ Caulk around windows, and use weather stripping around doors.
- ◆ If you have storm windows, check for proper fit of glass and frames. Plastic storm window kits are available at hardware stores.
- ◆ Lower your thermostat setting when you are away from home or asleep. Consider installing a thermostat that will adjust temperatures automatically.
- ◆ If you have radiators, release trapped air through bleeder valves to improve their efficiency. Clean and remove any material from radiators that will reduce efficiency.
- ◆ Fix dripping faucets.
- ◆ When possible, insulate your home's sidewalls and attic.
- ◆ Consider installing heavy or insulated curtains or drapes at windows.

About the Office of the People's Counsel

The District of Columbia Office of the People's Counsel is an independent Agency of the District of Columbia government that represents, educates and advocates on behalf of consumers of natural gas, electric and telecommunications services.

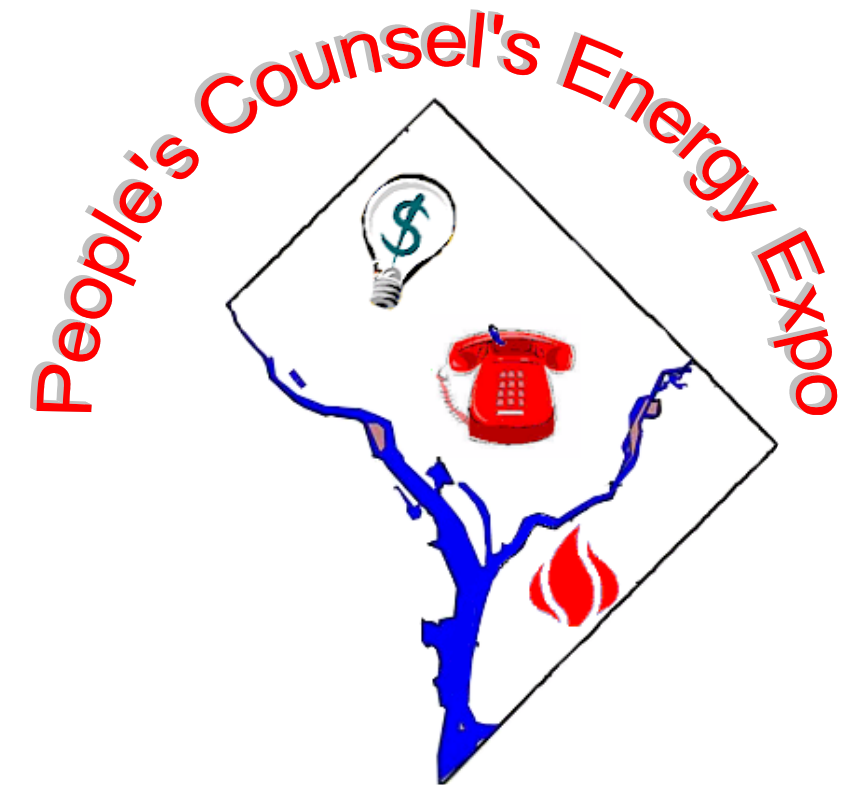


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Office of the People's Counsel of the District of Columbia and DC AARP Chapter #3473 Present



Consumer Hands-on Workshop and Demonstration

Thursday, March 31, 2005
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
3000 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE