

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

APRIL 2009

Let's have an honest debate about energy

There has been a lot of talk about energy lately. The subject is covered in newspapers, on cable news and talk radio. It's been the topic of many speeches in Washington, D.C. The remedies for our "energy crisis" are coming from all directions but particularly by Congress and the new administration,

I think we can all agree that the country needs a strong energy policy that is sensitive to environmental concerns. We can also agree the country is experiencing one of the worst economic recessions in recent memory. The American people are having a tough time, and here in North Carolina, we feel it too.

So why has the new administration decided to push an energy strategy that will dramatically raise electric rates maybe as much as 40% in the next 20 years? I believe the intent is to quickly implement a new energy policy that will promote energy efficiency programs, reduce carbon emissions, and create badly needed jobs. All these are admirable goals. I get that part.

What I don't get is raising costs to the point people can't afford to use electricity. Maybe for some that is the point. They believe if your electric bill is too high, then you will use less electricity and that will be good for the environment. I think there is a better way to formulate a sound national energy policy, while still meeting our environmental challenges.

A quick "back of the envelope analysis" of what Congress is considering today, combining renewable and energy efficiency mandates, as well as, costs associated with decreasing greenhouse gases to battle climate change, could add as much as an additional 40% to the average cooperative consumer electric bill in North Carolina. This may be a low figure as carbon costs may rise considerably more depending on decisions made by the new administration and the Congress in the coming months. Where will much of this money go? Washington, D.C. How and where will the money be used? Some current proposals would move the money around the country but not help the environment.

The electric cooperatives support a balanced solution that doesn't dramatically increase your electric bill and send all the extra dollars to Washington D.C. We have a lot of smart folks in our country. Let's spend some time and help Congress get this right. Learn more and find out what you can do to help at www.findabalancedsolution.com. Or call 1-877-40-BALANCE.

Let's have an honest debate about our energy future and work together with Congress to solve our problems. Let's find a balanced solution that protects the environment and is affordable. I know we can do both.



Jim Mangum

Jim Mangum
General Manager
Chief Executive Officer

Wake ElectriConnection

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P.O. Box 1229, 414 East Wait
Avenue, Wake Forest, NC
27588, www.wemc.com

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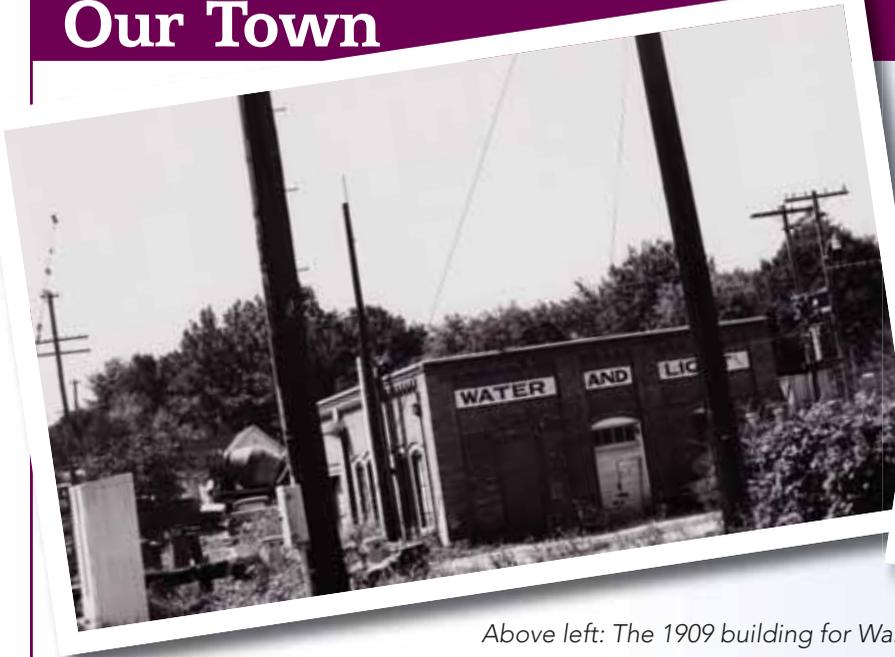


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Our Town



Above left: The 1909 building for Wake Forest's first in-town electric generator still stands downtown. At least some of the fuel in the early years was sawdust from a nearby planning mill.

Connections recalls Wake Forest history

By Carol Pelosi, editor of the Wake Forest Gazette

Connections ... 100 Years of Wake Forest History, the new hardcover limited edition book, began with Wake Electric.

After reading the first volume of Lyndon Johnson's biography with its graphic description of the creation of electric co-operatives in a struggle to extend electric lines to farms and rural areas, I began to wonder how that struggle played out in and around Wake Forest. The next time I went to get a haircut at Dale's Shop on N.C. 98, I asked one or two women and was astounded to learn that Wake Electric expanded in the 1940s, after WW II. The result was a series in *The Wake Weekly*, the local newspaper where I had once worked as a reporter. Men and women who had worked to build the Wake Electric lines to farms and homes around Rolesville and areas just outside of downtown Wake Forest shared their stories.

From the Wake Electric stories, I wondered how did the town of Wake Forest get electricity? The answer began in the handwritten town board minutes.

The Wake Forest College trustees wanted to do away with lamps and candles in college buildings. The growing town had to make the first break with the college, dropping that name as it became the Town of Wake Forest. Town officials moved quickly after the new charter was approved by the General Assembly on Feb. 20, 1909, to build the electric plant, install the generator—fueled by sawdust at first—and install the lines. Electric lights in the college buildings and the 17 tungsten street lights were turned on the evening of Nov. 11, 1909.

While there was power in town, as late as the end of the 1930s, like the much of the rest of rural America, nine out of ten

rural homes were without electric service. The farmer milked his cows by hand in the dim light of a kerosene lantern. Often his wife worked at the wood range and washboard. The unavailability of electricity in rural areas kept their economies entirely and exclusively to agriculture. Factories and businesses, of course, preferred to locate in cities where electric power was easily acquired. In 1940, Wake Electric formed to bring power to those rural areas.

Connections recounts a century of changes charting an incredible residential and commercial growth in and around Wake Forest that is still underway. Both the Town of Wake Forest and Wake Electric have provided the electricity that has allowed many of the stories told through pictures in this book to unfold.

The volume is a treasure trove of pictures, original artwork and stories recording the people, places,

Wake Forest history

Left: In the early days, Wake Electric customers read their own meters and sent their bill in or returned it to the office.

Below: In 1939, Wake Electric would form and set up its own office in downtown Wake Forest to provide power to rural areas.



and events of the past 100 years. Throughout the pages of this book, you will enjoy the rich history of Wake Forest and learn how it has grown from a small college town to a thriving community of more than 26,000 residents.

You can purchase Connections locally at several shops in historic downtown Wake Forest or by going to www.wakeforestnc.gov and clicking on the Centennial Celebration button.

"Our Town" is dedicated to local events, people and places in our service territory, which includes Durham, Franklin, Nash, Johnston, Vance, Granville and Wake counties. Suggestions for events, businesses, people, or points of interest for "Our Town" should be e-mailed to Angela Perez, Public Relations Specialist, at angela.perez@wemc.com or call at 919.863.6376 or 1.800.474.6300.

Straight Talk about

Energy-efficient landscaping

Solar heat absorbed through windows and roofs makes your air conditioner work harder and gobbles up more electricity. But incorporating shading concepts into your landscape design can help reduce this solar heat gain—and your cooling costs.

Shading from trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 9° F. Because cool air settles near the ground, air temperatures directly under trees can be as much as 25° F cooler than air temperatures above nearby blacktop.

Trees can be selected with appropriate sizes, densities, and shapes for almost any shading application. To block solar heat in the summer, but allow much of it in during winter, plant deciduous trees. To provide continuous shade or block heavy winds, use dense evergreen trees or shrubs.

Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns (leaves and branches) should be planted on the south side of your home to provide maximum summertime roof shading. Trees with crowns lower to the ground are more appropriate to the west, where shade is needed from lower afternoon sun angles. Trees should not be planted on the southern sides of solar-heated homes in cold climates because branches will block some winter sun.

Although a slow-growing tree may take many years before it shades your roof, it will generally live longer than a fast-growing tree. Also, because slow-growing trees often have deeper roots and stronger branches, they are less prone to breakage by windstorms or heavy snow loads. Slow-growing trees can also be more drought resistant than fast-growing trees.



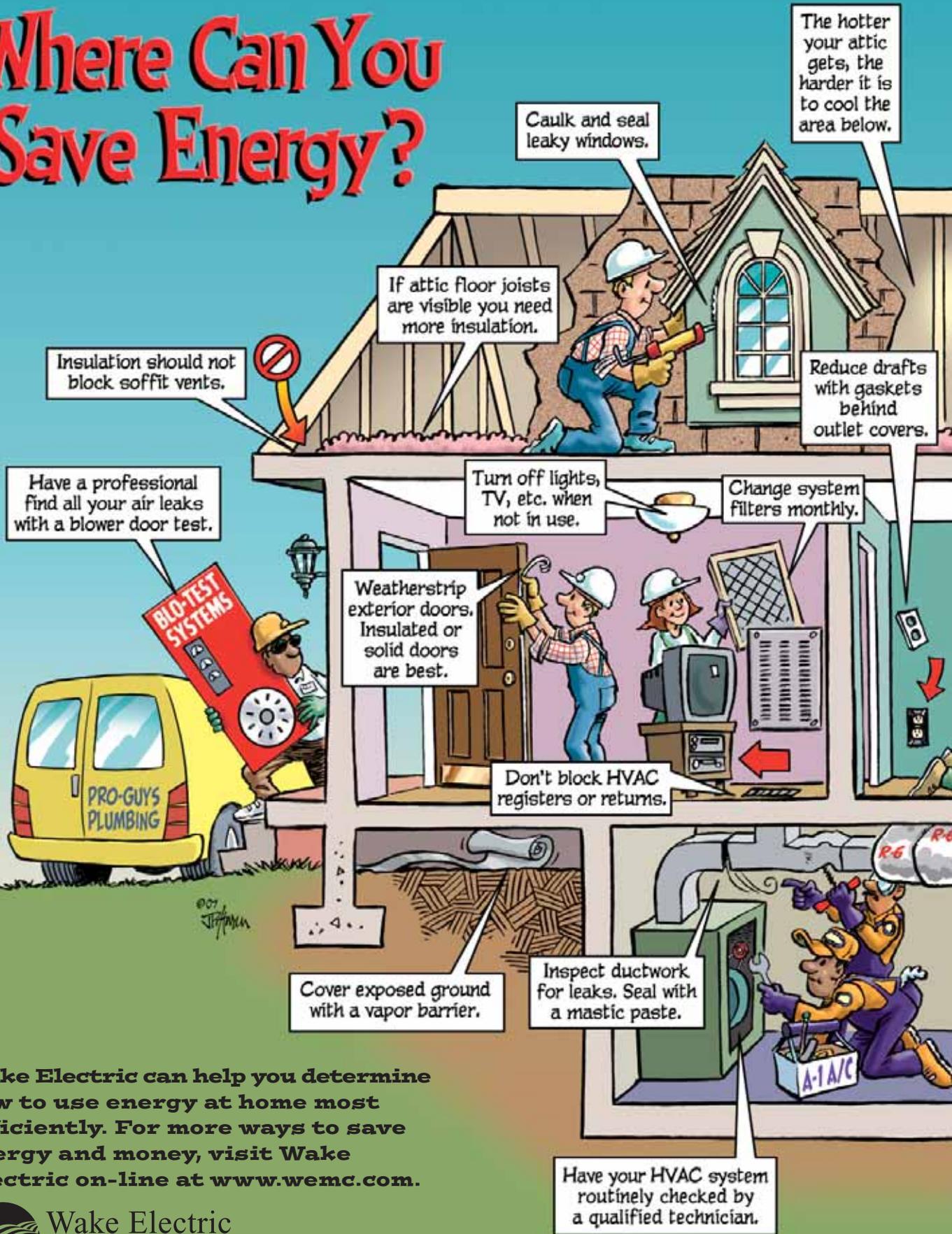
A 6- to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near your home will begin shading windows the first year. Depending on the species, the tree will shade the roof in five to 10 years. If you have an air conditioner, shading the unit can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent.

Trees, shrubs and groundcover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around the home. This reduces heat radiation and cools the air before it reaches your home's walls and windows. Use a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a patio or driveway. Plant a hedge to shade a sidewalk. Build a trellis for climbing vines to shade a patio area.

Vines can also shade walls during their first growing season. A lattice or trellis with climbing vines, or a planter box with trailing vines, shades a home's perimeter while admitting cooling breezes to the shaded area.

Shrubs planted close to the house will fill in rapidly and begin shading walls and windows within a few years. However, avoid allowing dense foliage to grow immediately next to a home, since the resulting humidity will create maintenance-related problems. Well-landscaped homes in wet areas allow winds to flow around the home, keeping surrounding soil reasonably dry.

Where Can You Save Energy?

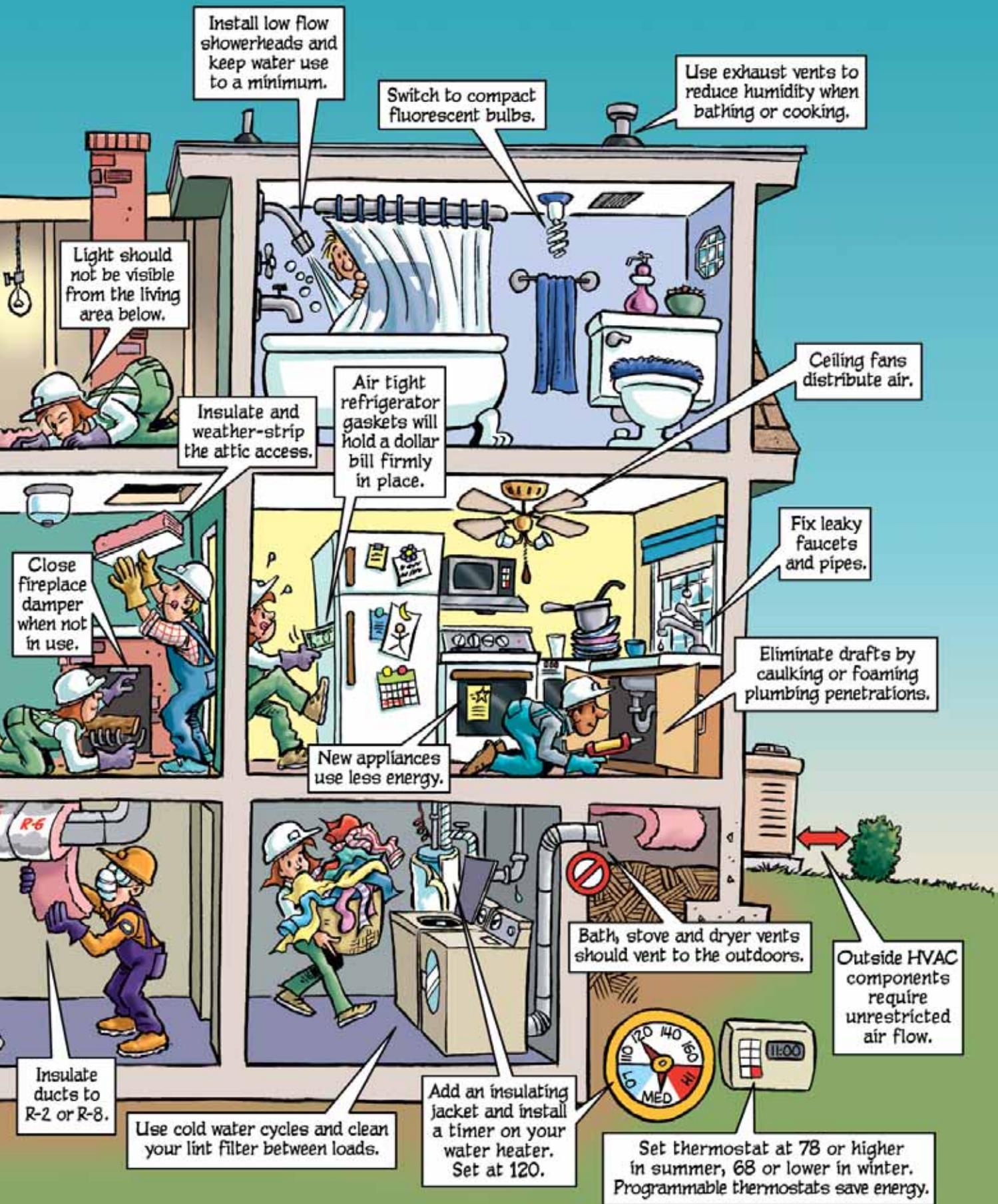


Wake Electric can help you determine how to use energy at home most efficiently. For more ways to save energy and money, visit Wake Electric on-line at www.wemc.com.



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Install low flow showerheads and keep water use to a minimum.

Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs.

Use exhaust vents to reduce humidity when bathing or cooking.

Light should not be visible from the living area below.

Insulate and weather-strip the attic access.

Air tight refrigerator gaskets will hold a dollar bill firmly in place.

Ceiling fans distribute air.

Close fireplace damper when not in use.

Fix leaky faucets and pipes.

Eliminate drafts by caulking or foaming plumbing penetrations.

New appliances use less energy.

Insulate ducts to R-2 or R-8.

Use cold water cycles and clean your lint filter between loads.

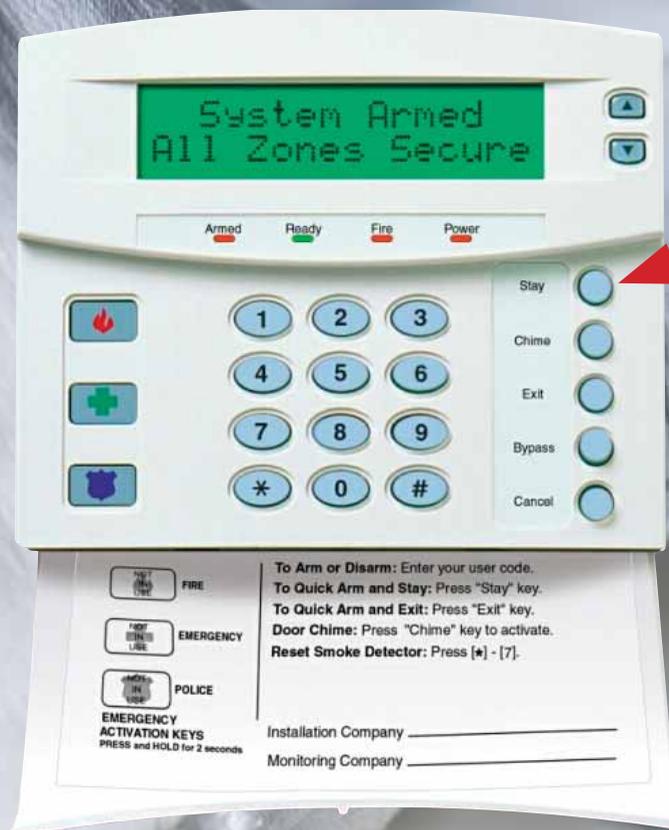
Add an insulating jacket and install a timer on your water heater. Set at 120.

Bath, stove and dryer vents should vent to the outdoors.

Outside HVAC components require unrestricted air flow.

Set thermostat at 78 or higher in summer, 68 or lower in winter. Programmable thermostats save energy.

Illustration by Jackie Pittman



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