



Iowa Utilities Board

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 29, 2019

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Iowa Utilities Board offers safe, economical ways for customers to reduce winter heating bills

(Des Moines) – With dangerously cold temperatures throughout the state, the Iowa Utilities Board reminds customers of ways to reduce heating bills while remaining safe and warm.

Recent winter storms have produced large snow accumulations and customers should be sure that vents, meters and air intakes for natural gas appliances are clear of snow and ice. This enables proper venting and furnace operation and prevents carbon monoxide accumulation.

In addition, lowering the thermostat while sleeping or away from home is a common method for utility customers to save energy and money. This can be done without sacrificing comfort by installing an automatic setback or programmable thermostat. For personal and property safety, thermostat temperatures should never be reduced to a setting that might impact the health of anyone in the home or cause pipes to freeze.

Here are additional winter energy-saving options and safety tips for your home:

- Inspect, clean and change furnace filters following manufacturers' recommendations.
- When possible, weatherize exterior doors and windows.
- Never use portable combustion generators indoors, which can be fatal due to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Never use stoves, ovens, grills or gas or kerosene heaters indoors for space heating.
- Ensure there is adequate venting when using a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Never leave space heaters or open flames from fireplaces unattended.
- Make sure smoke alarms are connected and functioning properly.

For more information, visit the Iowa Utilities Board's [Tips to Save Energy](#) webpage.

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The Iowa Utilities Board regulates utilities to ensure that reasonably priced, reliable, environmentally responsible, and safe utility services are available to all Iowans.

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