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ELECTRIC
DISTRICT HEAT
WATER
WASTEWATER
SOLID WASTE

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ENERGY CONSERVATION

“The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities has always considered electricity to be an elegant form of energy that needs to be conserved to be used for those things that only electricity can do,” stated Sue Jones, BPU Communications Coordinator. She went on to explain that the local utility has advocated implementing energy efficiencies for more than 15 years. The utility has an extensive section on energy conservation and water conservation included in its website at www.jamestownbpu.com.

Three areas that BPU customers can focus on to conserve electricity are: heating systems, hot water heaters and lighting. “The more you turn down your thermostat, the greater the savings,” Jones explained, “though the elderly should not turn their furnaces below 65°. Everyone should have their furnace checked at the beginning of the heating season to be sure all is working well and learn to change your furnace filter monthly.” An extra sweater, a pair of socks and wearing slippers or shoes indoors should help people be comfortable in their cooler homes, yet save energy.

Mrs. Jones went on to describe several good measures to save energy - both electricity and gas.

Additional measures homeowners can take include: weatherstripping windows, small holes and cracks where cold air may enter your home. Storm doors and windows are a second set of windows and doors that provide insulation and reduce heat loss. If you don’t have storm windows, clear plastic can be taped to the inside of the window frame.

Hot water heaters are probably the second largest energy user in the home and these too should have their thermostats lowered to 120°. BE SURE TO CALL THE GAS COMPANY FOR SAFETY INFORMATION WHEN WRAPPING A GAS WATER HEATER.

Showers use less water than baths, and hot water saved means energy saved. A low flow showerhead saves even more water. Never use the dishwasher, washing machine and dryer unless you have a full load.

An easy way to save energy on lighting is to replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents. Compact fluorescent bulbs use one-fourth the energy as regular bulbs and last 10 times longer. The bulbs are initially more expensive, but the life cycle cost of the bulb and its operation is far less costly than using incandescent bulbs.

“Be an energy miser - take an inventory of your home or apartment and turn the electricity down or off wherever and whenever possible,” said Jones.