



FLORIDA Wraps UP 2013 with 500 kWh in Savings

The year 2013 was an exciting and energetic year in Florida. To commemorate Florida's historic 500th anniversary year, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) partnered with Governor Scott's Viva500 campaign by introducing the **2013 Energy Saving Challenge**. Each month the PSC announced a consumer tip that helped customers save energy, which leads to saving money! Participating consumers could save up to 500 kilowatt hours (kWh) or more of energy.

In April, as part of home maintenance, the PSC urged consumers to "get your ducts in a row," by checking your home's ductwork, as leaky ducts can reduce heating and cooling system efficiency by as much as 20 percent. Keeping your cooling systems as efficient as possible is especially important during warm Florida summers.

In May, the PSC encouraged proper "AC" unit maintenance and usage.

In July, a "Vacation Energy-Saving Tip" reminded consumers to consider vacation home safety, and recommended suspending newspaper delivery, arranging for pet care, and unplugging all electronics. Unplugging electronics and turning off surge protectors while away saves money by preventing "vampire voltage" or electricity used by appliances when they're not in use.

In September, as college football season arrived in Tallahassee, the PSC encouraged "Energy Saving Tailgate Tips" in September, to help you cheer during the game and after. "Your kitchen is often the busiest room in the house during tailgate parties or any gathering," said PSC Chairman Ronald A. Brisé. "By using these tips, you can reduce your kitchen energy usage and save some cash." Tips included turning off the electric oven 15 minutes before the cooking time ends and baking several items at a time. Also, glass and ceramic baking dishes retain heat better than metal, and often require lower cooking temperatures, using less energy.

In October, as part of Energy Action Month, the PSC reminded consumers how to make small lifestyle changes that can reduce energy consumption and save money. Some of the easy tips included using power strips in areas with a lot of electronics, using natural heat and light by opening windows on cooler days, and closing curtains on warm days to keep the house cool. The PSC also reminded consumers to get an energy audit from their local utility company.

In November, the PSC helped consumers save on their wallet this holiday season, by suggesting "Energy Efficient Gifts" for their holiday shopping list. The PSC encouraged consumers to look for ENERGY STAR qualified electronics as great gifts during their Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping. Using LED (light-emitting diode) holiday lights was also recommended.

By practicing these and other conservation tips, you can help protect Florida's resources for residents and visitors to enjoy for another 500 years. To read all of the 2013 Energy Saving Challenge and tips, and to track your new conservation habits and monthly energy savings, visit the PSC's website at

<http://www.FloridaPSC.com/consumers/tips>