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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 25, 2017

Press Release

RMLD Provides Tips on How to Save Money on Your Electric Bill This Summer

Reading, MA – Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) is providing tips to help customers conserve electricity and save money on their electric bills this summer.

There are several low or no-cost ways that customers can save energy and money:

- Turn off lights and electronics when they're not in use.
- Install a programmable thermostat to manage your cooling and heating systems more efficiently.
- Avoid using the drying cycle on your dishwasher.
- Air dry clothes rather than using the clothes dryer.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
- Keep doors and windows shut when cooling or heating your home.

In the summertime, air conditioning makes up a big portion of an electric bill. Here are a few steps customers can take to reduce the amount of electricity used to keep homes cool in the summer heat:

- Turn your air conditioner down by increasing the temperature setting (from 70 degrees to 72 degrees for example) – even a few degrees will make a difference. When turning your AC on initially, avoid setting the temperature to colder than normal – this will not cool the home any faster and results in more electricity use.
- Use caulk to seal around drafty windows and doors to prevent the cool air from escaping – this helps your air conditioning to work more efficiently.
- Use regular fans and ceiling fans to circulate the cool air throughout the premises. If using a ceiling fan, be sure it is set to run counterclockwise – this will push the air downward and produce a cooling effect.

- Keep the sun's heat out by leaving shades and blinds closed on hot, sunny days.

Home appliances and the way they're used can also reduce electricity use and save money. Upgrading to ENERGY STAR® rated appliances, which use less energy than their traditional counterparts, is a great way to save money on your electric bill. Additionally, RMLD offers rebates for most ENERGY STAR® rated products. If you can't upgrade right now, visit <http://www.rmlld.com/save-energy-money/pages/energy-saving-tips-for-homes> for tips on how to use your appliances more efficiently.

Lighting can also provide an opportunity to reduce electricity use and save money. LED light bulbs use 70-80% less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs and last up to 25 times longer. RMLD's online store for residential customers offers an assortment of LED light bulbs for purchase at up to 50% off the retail price. In addition to energy efficient light bulbs, advanced power strips may also be purchased at a discounted price from RMLD's online store. Advanced power strips allow you to shut off the power supply to some or all of the electronics that are plugged into the strip to ensure they're not drawing power when not in use. Using an advanced power strip to manage home entertainment and home office devices that use a small amount of electricity when in standby mode will reduce electricity use. Visit <http://www.energyfederation.org/rmlld> to browse the discounted products that are available for purchase at RMLD's online store.

In addition, RMLD is pleased to offer a variety of programs to its customers to offset the cost of electricity including a no-cost home energy assessment for residential customers, Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates, Renewable Energy Rebates (including solar), a Commercial Lighting Retrofit Program, a time-of-use rate, a prompt payment discount of 15% off portions of the bill, and more.

RMLD has been working to address rising costs related to the purchase of wholesale electricity through its Shred the Peak program. This program helps customers to understand how peak demand impacts RMLD's future costs and encourages customers to conserve electricity when peak demand is predicted. Peak electricity demand occurs when the highest amount of electricity is consumed, typically on a hot weekday afternoon between the hours of 2pm and 7pm. RMLD communicates peak demand predictions through Shred the Peak Alerts posted on www.RMLD.com and sent out via email and Twitter. Shred the Peak Alerts are issued multiple times over the summer to ensure the actual peak demand is captured. To learn more about RMLD's Shred the Peak initiative, please visit <http://www.rmlld.com/save-energy-money/pages/shred-the-peak>.

For more information, please visit www.rmlld.com or contact us at 781-942-6598.

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