



DECEMBER 2019

Twelve Days of Energy Savings

With the holiday season in full swing, energy usage and costs can be a concern. To help alleviate what could become a winter burden, the City of Tallahassee offers these 12 tips to help you and your family save energy and money.

- 1. Schedule a Free Home Energy Audit.** This is an assessment of your home, identifying your current energy consumption and how to put in place energy efficient measures. Many of the loan and rebate programs outlined below require an energy audit as a first step.
- 2. Install a Smart Thermostat.** New this year, the City is offering a \$100 rebate to City electric utility customers who purchase and install a eligible ecobee, Google Nest or Honeywell Lyric smart thermostat in their home.
- 3. Adjust Your HVAC.** Lowering your thermostat by just one degree can decrease energy usage by 3 percent.
- 4. Take Advantage of Sunlight.** Open curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally warm your home. Close them at night.
- 5. Maintain Your Fireplace.** Shut the damper when not in use to keep warm air inside.
- 6. Prepare Your Home's Windows.** Replace single-pane or low R-value windows with double-pane windows. The City's Energy-Efficiency Loan Program can help.
- 7. Apply for a Ceiling Insulation Grant.** The City will cover a portion of the total cost to purchase and install quality insulation in your home.
- 8. Consider ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebates.** On average, home appliances account for 20 percent of your home's total energy use. The City offers rebates that can help with the cost of these purchases.
- 9. Light Up with LED Lighting.** LED holiday lights last longer and consume 70 percent less energy than conventional incandescent light strands.
- 10. Install a Lighting Timer.** Timers help you stay in the holiday spirit with lower energy consumption.
- 11. Unplug Energy Strips When Not in Use.** When not in use but still plugged in, these devices draw small amounts of energy.
- 12. Use Your Kitchen Wisely.** Cooking for a crowd? Bake several dishes at the same time. Your oven will use the same amount of energy.

Through energy-saving programs, like loans and rebates, the City has provided over \$26 million in incentives to utility customers, equating to nearly 500,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) in energy savings since 2008. Visit Talgov.com to learn more.

MEETINGS IN JANUARY

- Jan 1 New Year's holiday;** administrative offices closed (Visit Talgov.com for holiday week schedule changes.)
- Jan 15** City Commission retreat at 9 am. Location TBD.
- Jan 20 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday;** administrative offices closed (Visit Talgov.com for holiday week schedule changes.)
- Jan 21** Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency board meeting at 1:30 pm
- Jan 29** Regular City Commission meeting at 4 pm
- Jan 30** Community Redevelopment Agency board meeting at 9:30 am
- Jan 30** Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency meeting at 3 pm

All meetings are held in the City Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall (300 S. Adams St.), unless noted otherwise. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. City Commission meetings are shown live and rebroadcast on WCOT, the City's government access channel (Comcast Cable and CenturyLink channel 13). City Commission meetings are also streamed live online and are indexed and posted for viewing on Talgov.com. Call the Department of Communications at 891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda online at Talgov.com. Follow @CityofTLH on Twitter for City news.

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WINTER WEATHER TIPS

When a freeze warning is issued for Tallahassee by the National Weather Service, you can take simple steps to help protect your family, your pipes and your pets.

- Insulate all pipes exposed to outdoor air with cloth or a similar material.
- Exercise caution when using supplemental heating units. Keep combustible materials, such as drapes or chairs, at least three feet away from any heating unit.
- Bring outside pets indoors during cold snaps, especially at night when temperatures dip to their lowest.



The City of Tallahassee wants to ensure all residents know what to do when the forecast calls for a hard freeze. Customers can call 850-891-4968 for utility service needs.



EMBRACE HISTORY

The City of Tallahassee and John G. Riley Center/Museum recently unveiled the Frenchtown Historical Marker Trail. The nine markers tell the history of Frenchtown, one of Tallahassee's oldest African American communities. Through them, visitors will discover and celebrate a time when Frenchtown was a thriving, self-sustaining community of families, homes, businesses and pride – a time when Frenchtown had it all. The markers include oral histories that were conducted between 1998 and 2005 by the Riley House with former residents. They share what life was like in the community during its heyday from the late 19th to mid-20th century. The trail, which is free and open to all, begins near the Renaissance Center, 435 N. Macomb Street. Explore Tallahassee this winter with a stroll through history.

SET THE TEMPO



Young, out of work and out of school. If this sounds like people you know, one thing they aren't out of is options. The TEMPO (Tallahassee Engaged in Meaningful Productivity for Opportunity) program offers youth ages 16-24 a positive path forward. TEMPO's overarching goal is to connect local disconnected youth with educational and workforce opportunities. This program is a key connector for those at a crossroads between childhood and adulthood. Learn more at Talgov.com/TEMPO or by calling 850-891-8722.

Sustainability Tip

Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home. Close them at night to reduce heat loss & the chill you feel from cold windows.



NEW YEAR, NEW JOB

At the start of the new year, many of us take stock of where we are in life and set resolutions to help us achieve new goals. If one of your goals is to cultivate a career where you make a difference every day, apply to work with us at the City of Tallahassee. From engineers and accountants to horticultural specialists and crossing guards, there are opportunities in a diverse range of fields for people at every stage of their career. Learn more at Talgov.com/Employment.

INSIGHT is published monthly to inform citizens about City services and related terms of interest. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the appropriate City department. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Requests should be made at least seven hours in advance. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance request.

For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquiries, please call 891-4968 or visit Talgov.com.

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