

Owned by the People of Paducah

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Assistant General Manager

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## Doug Handley

Director of Finance, Power Supply & Rates

#### Eileen Miller

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To report an outage call 270-575-4010



# ENERGY

## Get Ready for Fall

Cooler weather will be here in the next month or so, and the financial issues that many people are having due to COVID 19 related layoffs and closings make it more important than ever to plan for the winter heating season. Now is the time to weatherize your home and check your HVAC system to make sure



it's working safely and efficiently. Forty percent of the average residential customer's bill goes toward heating and cooling the home, so an efficient system will help you to save money this winter. It's also important to check the filters on your system every month and change them when needed. Dirty filters can increase your energy costs and cause problems with your equipment. The biggest way to affect your bill is to keep your thermostat as low as you comfortably can. We recommend that you keep it on 68 degrees when you're at home.

A small amount of money spent on sealing up air leaks in your home can yield important savings. Most homes have leaks equivalent to the size of a fully opened window, so it's worth the time and effort it takes to seal those leaks. Here are some places to look:

- Caulk around door and window frames on the inside and outside of the house.
- Insulate and weather strip around the door that leads to your attic.
- Seal around plumbing vents in the attic floor and in the roof.
- Check for leaks around plumbing penetrations under kitchen and bathroom sinks.
- Check your ductwork and seal any leaks with the proper materials.
- Weather strip exterior doors, including the ones leading to the garage.
- Make sure the dryer exhaust vent hood is intact and fits tightly.
- Install foam gaskets behind electrical switch plates and outlets.

**Other tips:** The water heater is the second highest energy user in your home. Turn down the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. A budget friendly way to reduce heat loss is to cover your windows with plastic film. Warm air rises so reversing the blades on your ceiling fans to push that warm air back down is helpful. Many people use space heaters to supplement their main heating system. Keep in mind that many space heaters are extremely inefficient and can drastically increase your electric bill.

Contact Julie Colvis at Paducah Power System for a PPS Home Check-up. Julie can review your electric usage and check your home for issues that contribute to higher heating bills. 270-575-4032.

# **PPS Scholarship Winners**

Paducah Power System awarded scholarships three to local 2020 high school graduates. The scholarships were local students attending West Kentucky Community Technical College (WKCTC), any public college or university in Kentucky or a trade program. Recipients must be customers of PPS. Addison Calhoun, Dalia Lemus and Carley Beatty each received \$2,000 scholarships.

Beatty, a graduate of McCracken County High School plans to attend Murray State University and pursue a career in nursing. She is a Youth LEAD graduate, a Paducah Bank Teen Ambassador and a women's golf state qualifier for four years. Beatty is the daughter of Russ and Susan Beatty.

Lemus will enroll in the WKCTC nursing program with plans to eventually become a nurse practitioner. A graduate of Paducah Tilghman, Lemus is the daughter of Yadira and Melchor Lemus. She is a member of the tennis team, Beta Club, French Club and the National Honor Society.

Calhoun is enrolled at WKCTC, studying to become an electrician. A member of the WKCTC Dean's List, Calhoun is the son of Michelle Calhoun. He is a 2009 graduate of Marshall County High School.

The Paducah Power Scholarship program opens for applications on January 2 of each year.









## **Benefits of Public Power**

One of the benefits of public power is the support your utility provides to the community in ways beyond supplying electricity. PPS has worked with the Paducah Housing Authority (PAH) to eliminate fees for their use of our fiber network with Housing Authority equipment at public housing sites. PAH is partnering with Paducah Schools to help students needing internet to do their virtual schoolwork during the COVID 19 disruptions.



## E-Scrap Collection

By mid-September, PPS will decide whether to hold its annual E-Scrap collection in October, based on the COVID 19 restrictions at that time. Please watch local media and PPS social media pages for information about our decision.



## **Operation Round-Up**

Help those who need utility assistance by rounding up your bill to the next whole dollar each month. Mark the Operation Round Up box on your bill to sign up. Contact us directly at 270-575-4000 to make a one-time donation to the fund. Contact West KY Allied Services at 270-444-7380 to apply for Operation Round Up assistance.