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# LIPA NEWS



[www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org)

## A Green LI is Good for All of Us

Yes, the LI in LIPA is for Long Island - it's our home. While our main focus is on providing you with safe, reliable electric service, we believe it is also our responsibility to be kind to our home. That means continually examining our impact to Long Island's environment and helping you to do the same. Being more energy efficient is a great way to be "green" and save money, but there are many earth-friendly things you can do in and around your home.



### Green Grass, Clean Grass Secret Agents

Each year, Long Islanders apply millions of pounds of pesticides around their homes. These chemicals ultimately reach the underground aquifers that supply our drinking water. Your landscaping can naturally defend itself against pests and disease – if healthy. Proper maintenance, sensible watering, and organic products can decrease the need for expensive and potentially harmful chemical treatments. Many garden centers and landscapers across Long Island offer organic products and services. Many green tips are available from the Cornell Cooperative Extension at [www.gardening.cornell.edu](http://www.gardening.cornell.edu).



As you're cleaning around the house, have you ever thought about what's in that spray bottle in your hand? You probably already have healthy cleaning alternatives sitting in your cabinets that simply aren't labeled as cleaning products. Basic items such as baking soda, hydrogen peroxide, and distilled white vinegar are actually secret cleaning agents. For example, try spraying vinegar or lemon juice on a tile stain, let it sit for a few minutes, and scrub with a brush. That's not only green, but will save you money too.

### If It's Green, LIPA Can Probably Save You Some Green

Our 10-year Efficiency Long Island program is based on the fact that we cannot continue to view energy and its use the way we did before. Decades ago, a refrigerator was a gadget – now, your home probably has enough electronic gadgets to fill a refrigerator. We all have to be more efficient, not just to decrease our dependence on fossil and foreign fuels, but to increase the chances that this island we call home will continue to be a good one for future generations.

Despite what you may have heard, being green can be very easy. Many green alternatives are not only friendly to our island and planet, but to your budget as well. To learn more about how LIPA can save you money on energy-saving products and services, visit [www.lipower.org/efficiency](http://www.lipower.org/efficiency) or call 1-800-692-2626.

### S.T.O.P. Your Old Habits

LIPA is a big supporter of compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs because of how little energy they use and how long they last - but they don't last forever and shouldn't be thrown out with your regular trash. Every town on Long Island has a S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) program to collect CFLs, any fluorescent bulbs, and hazardous household items such as paint, pesticides, and batteries.



#### Cyber Hibernation

The "hibernate" function on your computer can save you time and energy. Completely shutting down the computer will require reloading everything at start up. Instead, use "hibernate" to power down and save energy during a period of inactivity. When you start up again, your desktop will be exactly as you left it.

## BEAT THE (COST OF) HEAT

Home heating is typically the largest single energy expense for a household, so reducing that cost can have a big impact on your budget. There are many ways to lower heating costs, including some that require little effort:

- Have your heating system checked periodically by a properly trained licensed professional.
- Check the filters in your forced-hot air heating system monthly and replace or clean them when they become dirty.
- Properly insulate walls, ceilings, floors, hot air ducts and hot water pipes to reduce heat loss.
- Caulk and use weather stripping on cracks in walls and floors, windows and doors to save fuel, electric costs and money.
- Installing a new furnace? Make sure you choose one with a variable-speed or electronically-commutated motor. This type of motor enhances the operation of your furnace while lowering operating costs (\$40 to \$300 annually, based on usage). Install one by December 31 and receive a \$200 LIPA rebate.
- Lower your thermostat by 10-15 degrees for eight hours a day – when you are away from home or at night when you are asleep. By simply adjusting your thermostat you can save about 10% a year on heating and cooling costs. A programmable thermostat will do it for you automatically.
- Storm windows and doors can reduce heating costs by as much as 15% by preventing warm air from escaping. Double-glazed and thermopane windows or even clear plastic across windows can minimize heat escape.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed tightly when not in use.

## Safety Spotlight

With the windows closed and your home sealed up tight for the heating season, it is particularly important to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide (CO). This toxic gas is particularly dangerous because you cannot see it or smell it. CO poisoning can cause flu-like symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, and in extreme cases can be fatal. CO is produced by the incomplete combustion of fuel, including oil, natural gas, and wood. Have your heating system and flue pipe inspected annually and **never** use a generator indoors. Anyone experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning should get outside to fresh air immediately and call 911. Install one or more CO alarms in your home, particularly near bedrooms. It's not only a good idea, it's now the law in New York State. Look for UL listed CO alarms at hardware and many other retail stores.

### Working for Long Island



#### *Opportunity: NOX*

While LIPA does not own the power plants that supply the electricity you use, we do believe in our responsibility to be part of the solution to supply Long Island with cleaner, more efficient energy. Just this past summer, a project at the Northport Power Station that has already cut nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions by 40% was completed. NOX contributes to smog formation on those hot, hazy days of summer. This is just the beginning. In the years to come, we will further reduce greenhouse emissions at Northport and other facilities with technologies that actually pay for themselves in reduced fuel costs. That's a big win for Long Island...and the island's electric customers.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

If you are struggling to pay energy expenses, look into the resources that are available to help you. Anytime you need assistance, let us know so we can work with you. Here are a few programs available to LIPA customers:



**REAP (Residential Energy Affordability Partnership):** this LIPA program can help you save energy and lower your electric bills with an energy audit and installation of energy-saving measures at no cost to you. REAP is for income-eligible customers and participants are also referred to other non-LIPA services that can help with any additional special needs. Call 1-800-263-6786 for more information.

**HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program):** this federally-funded financial assistance program provides grants to help income-eligible households pay energy costs. HEAP grants do not have to be paid back. There are two types of HEAP grants available: "Regular" and "Emergency" grants. Depending upon your financial situation, you may qualify for one or both. For more information, call the following HEAP information line for your area:

Rockaway Peninsula - 800-692-0557

Nassau County - 516-565-4327

Suffolk County - 631-853-8825

**Project Warmth:** this is an emergency assistance program to help families and individuals with energy emergencies. Project Warmth provides a one-time grant for fuel, plus an additional amount for fuel-related electricity. The heating grant may be used to pay for any fuel source including oil, natural gas, electricity, and propane. Project Warmth will open on or about December 1, 2010 and is available until funds are exhausted. Contact Project Warmth at 631-940-3757.

**LIPA's Consumer Advocates:** our skilled advocates are available to customers experiencing financial problems to provide guidance and assistance in applying for various social services programs. Call 1-800-266-1923 for more information or visit us online at [www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org).

**LIPA's Friendly Follow-up Program:** financial assistance can be as simple as offering a reminder about a bill to a friend or loved one. Friendly Follow-up provides that to someone you care about by designating you, a friend, or a social service agency to receive a copy of the bill when it becomes overdue. Call us at 1-800-490-0025 for more information. For more about financial assistance, visit [www.lipower.org](http://www.lipower.org) or call 1-800-490-0025.