

News Release

For immediate release: Feb. 4, 2010

Colder Winter Edges Home Heating Costs Higher

This winter is proving to be one of the coldest Georgia winters on record. This unfortunately means higher heating bills for most Georgians, and despite the prediction of Georgia's General Beauregard Lee of an early spring, we had best be prepared for at least six more weeks of winter.

This winter has been 43 % colder than a year ago and 32 % colder than a normal winter in the region. Customers may find it hard to recall those cold arctic blasts of a month ago now that their home heating bills are coming due. While natural gas and electricity prices have remained relatively low, especially in comparison to other home heating fuels, it's often hard to remember just how high we might have nudged the thermostat on those blustery days.

With weeks of winter ahead of us, it's important to prepare for possible higher natural gas or electricity consumption and to take steps now to cut costs. Take time now to insulate your home properly and seal drafty windows and doors that sap your home's energy. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to lower your temperatures during periods when your home may be vacant and at night when you are sleeping, and higher when the family is home. Lowering your thermostat just 4 degrees, say from 72 degrees to 68 degrees, can provide savings of roughly \$100 per home over the heating season! And if your home heating system or water heating system is aging, consider replacing them now with new energy saving appliances. You may also want to take advantage of Georgia's ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebate Program, which launches on February 12, 2010 and may provide rebates of up to \$199 for new high efficiency water

heaters, gas furnaces and electric heat pumps, and other appliances. For more information on this program, visit www.GeorgiaRebate.com (flyer is also attached).

Also, if you are living on a limited or fixed income, you may be eligible for efficiency upgrades that may include insulation, air sealing, and other measures to make your home more energy efficient *at no cost*, through the Georgia Weatherization Assistance Program. For more information on this program, visit www.gefa.org and look for the Weatherization Program under the “Programs and Activities” tab.

To learn more ways you can save on your home heating or overall energy costs, visit a City of Moultrie Customer Service Representative at 21 1st Ave., NE or call 985-1974.