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EDUCATED CONSUMERS ARE SMART CONSUMERS

Concord, N.H. Today more than ever, consumers are watching their pennies. Be careful not to overlook ways for reducing utility bills when sitting down to review your household or business expenses. Two areas that consumers should consider are energy efficiency measures and energy supply costs.

Low cost and no cost energy efficiency measures help reduce our monthly usage, which means lower monthly bills. New Hampshire's public utilities have a number of energy efficiency rebate programs to help lower energy usage and monthly bills. NHSaves.com provides direct links to the rebates and programs available through your utility.

Consumers can also save by being smart shoppers when it comes to energy supply. Your electric bill consists of two parts – delivery service and energy supply. Delivery service is the poles and wires that bring electricity to your home or business. Your electric utility will always deliver the electricity you use to your home or business. The energy supply portion of your bill is for the electricity you use in your home or business. Who supplies that energy is up to you, the customer. You may continue to buy your energy from your electric utility or you may choose to buy your energy from a competitive energy supplier.

Regardless of who you buy your energy supply from, remember that the price you pay is only fixed for a period of time. If you buy energy supply from your electric utility, sometimes called default service, the price is approved by the Public Utilities Commission and set for 6 months.

If you buy your energy supply from a competitive energy supplier, the period of time for which the price is fixed will vary, depending on the contract you enter into. Keep track of the contract end date and re-evaluate your options before it ends to make sure you get the best price. Many consumers who choose a competitive supplier forget to keep track of when their contract ends and, as a result, may pay more than they would if they switched to utility default service or another competitive energy supplier.

Remember, regardless of whom you buy your electricity from, you will continue to call your electric utility for outages, emergency services and questions about your service.