

CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY 2018

Easy ways to stay warm and save money throughout the heating season

Cold weather often means more time spent indoors, and in turn higher energy bills. But you might be surprised to know that small changes can generate big savings.

Here are some ideas to help you put more money in your pocket during the homestretch of winter:

- 1 Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or as low as possible while you're awake and even lower while you're asleep or away from your home. Using a programmable thermostat will help you avoid discomfort by automatically returning your home's temperature to a comfortable range before you wake up or return home.
- Tap the sun as a no-cost heating source.
 Keep blinds or curtains on your
 south-facing windows open during the
 day to allow sunlight to warm your home.
 Keep curtains closed at night to reduce
 chill and drafts.
- 3 Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation as needed. This will make your home more efficient and comfortable, and could save you up to \$200 per year.
- 4 Check your furnace filter monthly especially during months of heavy use. Be sure to change your filter at least every three months to ensure your furnace is operating efficiently and effectively!

Visit **dtenergy.com/staywarm** for more ways to save.

Blazing a trail to Michigan's clean energy future

Through 13 wind parks and 31 solar arrays, we're Michigan's leading producer of renewable energy, and able to generate enough clean energy to power 450,000 homes.

In 2018, we'll commission our newest project – a 65-turbine wind park located in mid-Michigan – which will be our largest and most cost-effective project to date. Visit **dteenergy.com/renew** to learn more about our efforts to make a positive impact on our environment.





Increase comfort and savings with a no-cost Home Energy Consultation

Did you know that as a DTE Energy customer, you're eligible for a no-cost

Home Energy Consultation? When you book an appointment, one of our experts will visit your home, deliver a personalized overview of ways you can save energy and money, and install energy-saving products – up to a \$400 value.

Sign up today by visiting **dteenergy.com/hec** or by calling 866.796.0512 and selecting option 1.

BEWARE OF SLAMMING: a threat to your financial well-being in 2018 and beyond.

As a Michigan resident, you decide which company provides your natural gas. But did you know your natural gas supplier can be switched without your knowledge or permission? This is called "slamming," and it can result in increased energy costs that could limit your financial freedom in the short and long term.

The best way to ensure you're not slammed with increased natural gas prices is to review your monthly energy bills carefully, and to be mindful of the natural gas supplier specified on your bill. If you were switched to an alternative gas supplier (AGS) without your permission, contact the AGS by calling the phone number listed on your bill or by calling the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) at 800.292.9555 to take the first step toward resolving the issue.



If you'd like to take a proactive approach to preventing slamming, we can help. Take advantage of our no-cost gas lock-in feature, which prevents your natural gas supplier from being changed without your permission. Locking in your supplier is fast and easy.

Visit dteenergy.com/gaslockin or call 800.477.4747 to get started today!



How our natural gas strategy is reducing overall energy expenses



It's peak heating season, and while natural gas provides a safe, reliable means of keeping our customers' homes warm, the process of delivering cost-effective natural gas takes year-round focus and attention. To ensure natural gas is affordable for (and available to) families across our service territory, we plan ahead and buy large volumes of this economical energy source throughout the winter months. Then we store it underground to ensure it's there when you need it.

This strategy – combined with an increased supply of natural gas flowing into Michigan – means natural gas will continue to deliver great value to our customers in the future. Interested in learning more about how we're working to keep natural gas affordable? Visit dteenergy.com/price for more info.

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