



Development
Services Agency

News Release

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Public Utilities
Commission

Christiane Schmenk
Director

John R. Kasich
Governor

Todd A. Snitchler
Chairman

For Immediate Release

October 2, 2012

October is Energy Awareness Month

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Development Services Agency and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio have partnered to increase awareness of energy efficiency during Energy Awareness month. Throughout October, the agencies will provide tips on reducing energy costs as well as more information on energy assistance programs.

“As we recognize Energy Awareness month, we encourage all Ohioans to find ways to increase their energy efficiency,” said Christiane Schmenk, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. “Using our energy resources more efficiently reduces the impact on our energy systems and our wallets.”

During October, Ohioans are encouraged to review how they use energy in their homes and offices. Installing programmable thermostats; turn things off when you are not in a room such as lights, TVs, entertainment systems, and computer; and washing only full loads of dishes and clothes are just a few ways to increase your energy efficiency. For Ohioans needing assistance in managing their energy costs, programs such as HEAP, HWAP and PIPP Plus are available and more information can be found at http://development.ohio.gov/is/is_energyassist.htm.

For Ohio businesses and communities interested in implementing energy efficiency measures, the Ohio Development Services Agency’s Office of Energy can provide low-interest loans for efficiency and advanced energy projects. More information on the Office of Energy programs can be found at http://www.development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_energyloanfund.htm.

“Energy Awareness month is a perfect opportunity for consumers to explore competitive supplier options for their electricity and natural gas service,” stated PUCO Chairman Todd A. Snitchler. “The PUCO’s *Apples to Apples* charts allow for a side-by-side comparison of supplier offers, allowing consumers to make informed decisions about their energy consumption.”

More information on energy conservation also can be found on the PUCO website, <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/index.cfm/consumer-information/consumer-topics/energy-and-water-conservation-tips/>.

*The **Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA)** works with partners across business, government, academia, and the nonprofit sector to build strong communities that support job creation. The Agency provides financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio, ensuring a vibrant economic future for all Ohioans. Visit www.development.ohio.gov. Also, follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/OhioDevelopment and Twitter www.twitter.com/OhioDevelopment.*

*The **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio** is the sole agency charged with regulating public utility service. The role of the PUCO is to assure all residential, business, and industrial consumers have access to adequate, safe, and reliable utility services at fair prices while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices. Consumers with utility-related questions or concerns can call the PUCO Call Center at (800) 686-PUCO (7826) and speak with a representative. Visit www.PUCO.ohio.gov. Also, follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/PUCOOhio and Twitter www.twitter.com/PUCOOhio.*

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