

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Household Conservation Makes Cents for You!

Are you looking for some no cost or low cost ways to reduce your energy expenses? Now is an excellent time to make a few changes to reduce your energy bills as well as helping to conserve our natural resources.

One way to monitor your home's energy efficiency is by using a Thermal Leak Detector. You just scan across the area you want to inspect and the light changes to red for warmer spots and blue for cooler spots, detecting air leaks. An efficient home will stay warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Land Conservation Technician Serge Koenig noted, "I was able to find cold air leaking into our house through areas around our windows, doors, and sill plates. There is no easier method of finding these small air leaks than using this thermal detector. The air leaks were increasing our home energy use and reducing comfort. I have been systematically addressing the air leaks through insulation, caulking, and installing new gaskets." A Thermal Leak Detector is available for loan free of charge from the Land Conservation Department.

Another great way to determine which appliances and electronics are costing you the most money is to get an energy meter. You can check out an energy meter called "Watts Up?" at your public library at no cost, just like you check out a book. An energy meter is an electronic tool that measures power (watts) used by appliance and electronics. When plugged into an electrical device, the meter displays the unit's power consumption, counts the cumulative kilowatt-hour use, and calculates the cumulative cost of operating that device. It can help you determine if it makes sense to upgrade to a more energy efficient appliance or use the appliance less.

Many people may not be aware that even when a device is switched off, it may still consume electricity. Some of the biggest energy wasters are adapters for your iPod, phones, digital cameras and so on. Even when TVs, VCRs, DVD players, microwaves, and coffee makers are not being used, they are in a standby mode to power clock displays and remote controls. As long as they are plugged into an outlet, they are drawing power.

On the Sauk County Land Conservation Department website at (<http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/landconservationpage/home-energy-saving-ideas>), there is a list of ways to save on home energy. Many will not cost you anything and some are low cost ideas to help you start saving. For instance, by turning down your thermostat 1 degree, you will save at least 1 percent in heating costs. A programmable thermostat makes it easy for you without sacrificing comfort. When lowering the temperature, just dress a little warmer or use a few more blankets. You may also contact the Land Conservation Department at 355-3245 or [ppohle@co.sauk.wi.us](mailto:ppohle@co.sauk.wi.us) for more information on saving energy in your home.

The Land Conservation Department's mission is to promote the awareness of our natural resources and to provide assistance. The Department assists with providing technical and financial assistance for

conservation practices, promotion of proper disposal options for waste materials, and environmental education.

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