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## Conserving Electricity During a Heat Wave

### *Tips from Guelph Hydro*

As temperatures climb above 32 degrees Celsius for the third consecutive day, Ontario's power grid is under strain as residents crank up their air conditioners in an effort to keep cool.

The Independent Electricity System Operator, which tracks province-wide electricity usage throughout the day, predicts peak demand today will be around 6 this evening at close to 25,000 megawatts. (To track how much power we're using, follow this [LINK](#).) That's not far off from the summer record peak of 27,000 megawatts, recorded on August 1, 2006.

Guelph Hydro reminds customers that in addition to putting a strain on the Ontario power grid, air conditioning usage can more than triple average daily residential energy consumption. Running a central air conditioning unit non-stop on days like this will cost about \$12 per day.

"An easy way to cut air conditioning costs is simply to use a ceiling fan or table fan in conjunction with your air conditioning," says Sandy Manners, Director of Corporate Communications for Guelph Hydro. "That way you can raise the temperature on your air conditioning unit and still feel comfortable."

Guelph Hydro offers the following tips to conserve electricity during summer heat waves:

- Set your air conditioner at the highest possible comfortable temperature, ideally no lower than 25 degrees Celsius.
- Use a programmable thermostat to raise the temperature when you are away and lower it before you come home. Sign up for **peaksaver™** and receive a FREE programmable thermostat. Call 519.822.3010 or register online at [www.guelphhydro.com](http://www.guelphhydro.com)
- Ceiling fans or table fans only cost 2-5 cents per hour to operate. Use a fan in conjunction with your air conditioner and the "wind chill" effect will enable you to set your air conditioner higher, saving you money.
- Keep curtains, drapes and blinds drawn during the day
- Keep doors and windows closed when your air conditioner is running.
- Turn off unnecessary lights
- Hang clothes out to dry
- Use a microwave or BBQ and eat outside in the shade
- Turn off computer equipment
- Turn on your dishwasher and do laundry at night

**About Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc.**

Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. delivers a safe and reliable supply of electricity to approximately 50,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Guelph and Rockwood. The company is owned by Guelph Hydro Inc. which is actively developing sustainable energy projects as a key implementer of the City of Guelph’s Community Energy Initiative.

For more information, visit: [www.guelphhydro.com](http://www.guelphhydro.com) or [www.guelphhydroinc.com](http://www.guelphhydroinc.com)

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