



Message of the Week
Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Dear Friends,

This week has seen a string of near record-breaking temperatures, and when the mercury is rising, so is the amount of energy it takes to keep Arizona up and running. In summers past, while our neighboring western states have had to cope with major power shortages and rolling blackouts, Arizona conserved enough energy to keep residents cool, calm and comfortable. This was a victory not only for the power companies, but also for the Arizonans who made little changes in their daily routines to preserve the state's energy supply.

I hope we can renew our power-saving vigilance again this summer. To that end, I have declared July Energy Star Month. I encourage all Arizonans to try a few of these energy saving tips during the next few months:

- * Heating and cooling costs account for more than 50% of your home energy costs. Consider installing a programmable thermostat. This will allow you to set temperatures a few degrees higher when no one is home.
- * When replacing household appliances such as refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers, home computers, and lighting products, look for ENERGY STAR® labeled products. These labels ensure the products meet the Environmental Protection Agency's efficiency specifications. An ENERGY STAR® labeled clothes washer uses 50% less energy than a standard machine, and 35% less water than standard clothes washers.
- * If it's time to replace your heating and cooling equipment, select a replacement unit with the ENERGY STAR® label and make sure that the installation company completes calculations to properly size the unit for your home. Check for leaks in your ductwork – most people don't know that having a small hole in their heating/cooling ductwork is as bad as keeping their front doors open all day. Leaks mean your air conditioner is trying to cool your attic in the Arizona summer – and you are paying for it!
- * Even with the most energy-efficient appliances and products, you can take additional steps to reduce your energy costs. Set the sleep mode on your computer and computer monitor to allow them to power down when not in use. Turn off lights and appliances when they're not needed. Switch to detergents and other laundry products formulated for use in cold water. Use your washer, dryer and dishwasher at night or in the early morning, during the off-peak hours for energy usage. Shorten the pumping cycle on your pool pumps.

I thank you all for your continued efforts to conserve energy. These little energy-savers may not seem like much, but if everyone on your block – or in your city – or in the state – saves a little, we will all thrive and survive another Arizona summer.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please contact my office at 1-800-253-0883 and ask to speak to Constituent Services.

Yours Very Truly,

Janet Napolitano
Governor