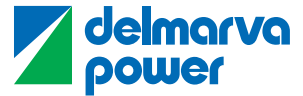


# LINES

DELMARVA.COM



Your Life. Plugged In.™

DECEMBER 2008

## **Assistance Increases for Winter Energy Bills**

Delmarva Power customers having problems paying their energy bills can look for extra help this winter.

Recently approved federal legislation increases the average assistance amount for participants of the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) from \$355 to \$550 per family in 2009.

The Maryland Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) administers MEAP for the state. Maryland customers should call OHEP at 1-800-352-1446 for applications, information and eligibility guidelines or visit [www.dhr.state.md.us/meap](http://www.dhr.state.md.us/meap)

## **Keeping Maryland Safe from Fire**

Delmarva Power's Emergency Services Partnership Program donated 1,256 smoke alarms and special needs smoke alarms to the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office in October. It's part of our fire safety education program for customers.

Donations included 56 special smoke detection units designed for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Over the past eight years, the utility has donated 8,500 regular smoke alarms and 210 special needs smoke alarms for distribution to Maryland residents.

## **Our Commitment to Bettering the Lives of Others**



*Delmarva Power employee Denise Horner and her Daisy Girl Scout Troup collected trash from the banks of the Nanticoke River during the 2008 Coastal Cleanup.*

Delmarva Power's commitment to making a difference in the lives of our neighbors is evident through our proud employees who donate their personal time and resources – not just during the holidays, but all year round.

In 2008, employees volunteered more than 1,500 hours for Junior Achievement, Habitat for Humanity, American Heart Association, Coastal Cleanup and other efforts.

In addition to employee time and resources, we've donated more than \$825,000 to organizations in Delaware and Maryland. These donated funds do not come from customer rates.

And in November, we gave \$10,000 towards a joint United Way and Delaware Food Bank initiative – Delaware Does More, Neighbors Helping Neighbors All Winter Long.

Our community outreach during the holiday season includes sending gifts and meals to the Basket Brigade of Delaware, Emily Bissell Hospital for the Chronically Ill, Wilmington Veterans Administration Nursing Home and other agencies.

Community outreach efforts are important to us and we will continue to help improve the quality of life of the communities we serve.

**POWER  
OUT?**

**In New Castle County, DE; Cecil and Harford Counties, MD: 1-800-898-8042  
In Kent & Sussex Counties, DE; and the Eastern Shore of MD: 1-800-898-8045  
For Natural Gas Emergencies in New Castle County, DE, ONLY: 302-454-0317**

## Use Caution When Decorating for the Holidays

Many people celebrate the winter holidays by cooking, entertaining and decorating. Stay safe by following the National Fire Protection Association's tips for holiday decorating:

- buy flame-retardant, flame-resistant or non-combustible materials whenever possible,
- only purchase lights and electrical decorations with UL, CSA or ETL-SEMCO certification marks,
- inspect new and previously-bought light strings – replace damaged items before plugging them in,
- keep children and pets away from light strings and decorations, and
- always be sure to turn off all decorations and light strings before leaving home or going to bed.

For more fire prevention and decorating safety information, visit [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org).

## Did You Know?

*I've heard that LEDs are more efficient for holiday lighting, but they cost more than traditional lights. Are they worth it?*

Yes. Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are small light sources illuminated by the movement of electrons through a semiconductor material – and they are worth the extra money.

According to ENERGY STAR®, LEDs are very energy efficient when producing individual colors, such as those used in many holiday lights. LEDs use up to 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs to produce the same amount of light.

The amount of electricity consumed by just one 7-watt incandescent bulb could power 140 LEDs – enough to light two 24-foot strings of lights.

Still not convinced? ENERGY STAR qualified LEDs are worth the extra money because they:

- last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent strands,
- are cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire,
- don't have filaments or glass so they are much more durable and shock-resistant than other light strings,
- come with a three-year warranty, and
- will absorb their initial cost after about one to two years of use.

Learn more about LEDs by visiting [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).



### Maryland (Area code 410)

**Jan 8,15,22,29:** *Drop-In Story Time;* Elkton Central Library, Elkton; 410-996-5600 x482.

**Jan 9&11:** *Rising Sun Historical Preservation Commission Museum;* 3rd fl., Rising Sun Town Hall, Rising Sun; 443-350-5351.

**Jan 22:** *Perryville Book Discussion: Water for Elephants;* Perryville Branch Library, Perryville; 410-996-6070, [perref@ccplnet.org](mailto:perref@ccplnet.org).

**Jan 31:** *Paper Americana;* Singlerly Fire Hall, Elkton; 410-398-7735.

**FOR MORE THINGS TO DO IN THE REGION, click on "About Us" and then "In the Community" at [delmarva.com](http://delmarva.com).**

To include a future event either in Lines or online, fax to: 302-283-6095, or send an e-mail to [Lines@delmarva.com](mailto:Lines@delmarva.com).

## Use Candles with Care

Candles add to the warmth and festivity of holiday celebrations. Unfortunately, candles cause thousands of home fires annually through misuse, resulting in property damage, injury and even death.

The National Candle Safety Association offers the following tips for keeping your home and family safe:

- never leave a burning candle unattended – extinguish it before going to bed or leaving home,
- never place a burning candle near something that can catch fire, and
- keep burning candles out of the reach of children or pets.

Delmarva Power suggests using battery operated candles – they're much safer. Learn more at [candle-safety.org](http://candle-safety.org).