

LINES

DELMARVA.COM

AUGUST 2009

What Is Standard Offer Service?

Did you know Delmarva Power delivers electricity but does not generate it?

Delmarva Power sold its generating plants with the advent of deregulation, which gave customers the opportunity to choose their electricity supplier.

Customers who do not choose an alternative electricity supplier receive Standard Offer Service or SOS. This means that Delmarva Power not only delivers your electricity, but purchases power for you in the wholesale market.

Delaware law requires Delmarva Power to buy electricity for its SOS customers from wholesale suppliers annually, using a competitive bidding process. These suppliers own power plants and produce electricity, or they buy and sell it in the wholesale market. The cost of SOS is passed directly to customers.

New SOS rates are effective twice a year. New summer SOS rates take effect on the monthly bill beginning June 1 and run through September. Winter rates take effect on the monthly bill beginning October 1 and go until May 31.

For more information on SOS rates, visit delmarva.com.

Become an Energy Detective

Looking to save energy and keep utility bills down? Summer is a good time to investigate how you use energy. As you examine the evidence, ask yourself these questions:



1. Has there been a change in your living pattern?

You may have kids home from college or you may be working from home. More people at home use more hot water for showers and laundry, and increase electricity use for lights, television and dishwashing.

2. Have you checked air conditioning filters?

Dirty filters make your air conditioner work harder. Clean or replace filter(s) monthly and schedule an annual checkup by a qualified technician.

3. What is your thermostat setting?

During the air conditioning season, Delmarva Power recommends a thermostat setting of 78 degrees, if health permits.

4. Have you added or replaced a major appliance?

If you purchased a plasma television, be aware that some models use more than four times the electricity of a standard TV set.

5. Do you leave certain appliances such as cell phone chargers or high-tech gadgets plugged in when not in use?

Unplug these devices. They are known as "energy vampires" and they consume electricity even when they are turned off or in standby mode.

For more ways to save energy, visit delmarva.com and click on My Account.

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*

Cool Down Energy Costs with An ENERGY STAR® Refrigerator



If you're in the market for a new refrigerator, consider an ENERGY STAR qualified model that will help you save energy and money.

ENERGY STAR refrigerators use 40 percent less energy than conventional fridges sold in 2001. They even beat current federal standards, using 20 percent less energy than what the government requires.

What makes them so energy efficient? ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators feature high efficiency compressors, greater insulation, more accurate temperature controls and better defrost mechanisms.

Can't afford a new refrigerator right now? The following tips can help you decrease the amount of energy your refrigerator uses.

- Be sure door seals are airtight.
- Keep the refrigerator temperature between 35 and 38 degrees.
- Minimize the amount of time the refrigerator door is open.

Visit energystar.gov/refrigerators to learn more about energy-efficient refrigerators and freezers. Go to delmarva.com for more energy savings tips.



Electric Hybrid Technology Comes To Delaware

Delmarva Power is demonstrating the Ford Escape plug-in hybrid as part of a three-year collaborative research program with Ford Motor Company, the Electric Power Research Institute and the Department of Energy.

Program participation will help Delmarva Power plan and develop the infrastructure needed to support future use of plug-in vehicles. Plug-in technology has the potential of helping customers reduce energy costs, reduce vehicle emissions and make efficient use of energy at night when power demand and prices are lower.

The five-passenger vehicle is equipped with a rechargeable high-voltage lithium-ion battery that is discharged during driving to improve fuel economy. A standard 120-volt outlet is used to recharge the vehicle overnight.

When the battery is depleted, the vehicle operates as a standard hybrid electric vehicle. It has a max speed of 102 miles per hour and gets about 120 miles per gallon of E-85 fuel.



Sept 18-20: Steel Magnolias; Reedy Point Players, DE City Comm. Center, 250 5th St, Delaware City, reedypointplayers@verizon.net

Sept 19: Guided Milton Walking Tour; Milton Historical Society, 210 Union St., Milton; 684-1010, www.historicmilton.org.

Sept 26: Members' Day Show; Hudson Field, Rt. 1, Milton; www.delawarebyhand.org.

Sept 27: AIDS Walk DE; Rockford Park, Wilm.; 652-6776, www.aidswalkdelaware.org.

FOR MORE THINGS TO DO IN THE REGION, click on "About Us" and then "In the Community" at 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.

Sept 11-13: Hispanic Festival; Wilmington Riverfront; www.nuestrasraicesde.org.

Sept 12: Amish Country Bike Tour; 406 Federal St., Dover; 800-233-5368, www.visitdover.com.

Sept 13: Delmarva Antique Bottles & Collectibles Sea Glass Show; Beacon Middle School, John J. Williams Hwy., Lewes; 684-5055, oldngnu@comcast.net.

Sept 14-19: Polish Festival; Wilmington Riverfront; 594-1400.